

WELCOME TO

Sachigo Lake First Nation



**TEACH
FOR
CANADA**



wacheyah



Sachigo Lake First Nation

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to Sachigo Lake First Nation. We are very happy that you have chosen to come live and teach in our community. You will be warmly welcomed by your colleagues and neighbours. The kids are also excited to meet you.

Sachigo Lake is a proud Oji-Cree First Nation. We are a dynamic and innovative community, always looking for new opportunities for economic development and learning. We are also a Christian anchored community, while still actively practicing traditional activities such as hunting and fishing. Community members will no doubt ask you out fishing, make sure to take them up on their offer.

We greatly value education as the first step towards taking advantage of opportunities. We have a beautiful school and we work hard to create a positive learning environment for our children. We count on you to contribute to that environment during the school day, by teaching dynamic, culturally relevant classes, and after school, by helping to organise extracurricular activities in which students can continue to learn and grow. We are also very open to trying new ideas if they will benefit the children. Once you have settled in and taken the time to see how things work at Martin McKay Memorial School, please feel free to talk to Edna Beardy, the principal, if you have an idea you want to try out.

There's also a lot going on in Sachigo Lake! You will have fun if you take time to enjoy these activities and get to know community members. Enjoy going out on the lake or walking through the bush. The land is beautiful here.

We look forward to showing you around the community and helping you settle in.

James Chapman

Education Director, Sachigo Lake First Nation

Community



A Brief History

- **1976** Sachigo Lake First Nation gains official band status. Martin (Marty) McKay is elected the first chief.
- **1978** Sachigo Lake gets telephone service.
- **1980** Construction of Sachigo Lake airport is completed.
- **1983** A school is opened in Sachigo Lake under the control of Indian Affairs.
- **Late 1980s** Sachigo Lake First Nation gains control of its school.
- **2000** Construction of new school begins.
- **Early 2000s** Arena is built.
- **2002** The brand new Martin McKay Memorial School building opens. The new 2,381-square-metre community school can accommodate 210 students.
- **2012** Different levels of government, including the band, provide funding for the construction of a small business center, which houses a number of businesses and provides a space for entrepreneurs.
- **2016** Solar farm developer SkyPower announces it's partnering with Sachigo Lake First Nation to develop a solar park in the community.



The Land

Sachigo Lake is comprised of 3 reserve areas; the main community is located on one of these areas.

Animals commonly found in the area include bears, wolves, moose, skunks, groundhogs, beavers, muskrats and turtles. Common birds include geese, ducks, swans, blue jays, blackbirds, ravens, and crows. Fish in Sachigo Lake and surrounding bodies of water include pickerel, jackfish, suckers, and whitefish.

Sachigo Lake Community Map



Martin McKay Memorial School



Welcome!

School Population

135

Grades

Kindergarten to
Grade 8

Education Director

James Chapman

School Principal

Edna Beardy

Secretary

Evelyn Tait

The school was named after Martin MacKay, the first chief of Sachigo Lake. He played an important role in helping the community gain control of its education. Martin McKay was also instrumental in helping set-up the Windigo Tribal Council.

What is the school most proud of...

We do extensive cultural programming, which involves Elders in children's education and incorporates land-based activities into the curriculum.

School vision

MMMS recognizes the importance of educating our people. We will reinforce the concept that our children are the key to our future as a people. The education system that we offer our children will prepare them to become productive citizens of the world. Our children will grow up with the knowledge that our aboriginal culture is to be proud of and understanding the contributions that our history has made to society.

Our Children will be prepared to face the challenge of the modern world and be provided with the educational resources that are necessary to enter a profession or trade. They will be able to use their acquired skills and knowledge for the betterment of our aboriginal culture as well as the world community.



A Day in the Life of a Teacher

8-8:30 Teachers arrive at school.

8:45-9:15 Breakfast program

9-9:15 Students and staff gather in the gym for morning prayer, presented by a student, announcements, and exercises, led by a teacher. This contributes to developing the school community.

9:15-11:55 Class time

11:55-1:00 Lunch: Kids go home with a packed meal from the lunch program. Teachers can go home or stay at school for lunch.

1:00-3:55 Class time

4:30 Teachers who don't take part in the after-school program can go home.

There is a 15 minute recess in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Teachers are expected to do yard duty during the morning or afternoon recess or do the bus supervision after school.

There is a 30-45 minute Native Language class every day, which serves as prep time for teachers.

Unique Classes/Activities

- Traditional and cultural activities such as rabbit snaring, trapping and fishing
- Oji-Cree language classes
- A daily breakfast program for students
- Tuesday night: basketball games, teachers vs students
- Fundraising activities for end of year grade 8 school trip
- From 4-5pm there is after school programming that is funded by the Ontario government, which is run by teachers. Half of the time is spent doing physical activities (e.g. sports, dance) and the rest of the time is spent doing other activities (e.g. arts). Kids who participate also get a snack.





Facilities

There is a total of eight classrooms, a computer room, a public-school library, a gymnasium, multipurpose facilities, and play areas for kindergarten and elementary students. Some of the classrooms are used as a Native Language class and as a health room, where services such as speech pathology are offered. There is an exercise machine in the health room, which teachers can use.

The school is well equipped with technology such as Chrome books, Kindles, iPads, Smartboards, and virtual reality equipment.

The school library also serves as the community public library and loans out various items including:

- Books, magazines, and audio visual material (DVDs, CDs), and video games (only for use at library)

The library also offers programs and services such as:

- Homework help
- Reading programs
- Story time

School Events

- School dances
- Dress-up and activities for Halloween
- Christmas concert and feast
- Graduation ceremony
- Spirit days (e.g. backwards day, crazy hair day, game day)
- Raffles for fundraising
- Feasts





Teacherages

There are two teacherages, one a five-minute walk from school and another one that is 15 minute walk away, near the store, the police detachment, and which has a beautiful lake view. All teacherages are fully furnished, including fully equipped kitchens and laundry facilities. Teacherages have two bedrooms, with a shared common space (living room, kitchen, and bathroom). All homes are equipped with a space heater, which should stay in the teacherage.

Rent is \$400 a month per house. If teachers live with a roommate, they split the rent and pay \$200/month each. Most teachers share unless they are with their families. Rent payments are made bi-weekly (i.e. teachers who pay \$200 a month pay \$100 every two weeks, when they get paid).

Pets are allowed, though some teacherages are kept pet-free.

Teachers must bring their own cell phone. Cell phone service is available through Knet with a pay as you go service or through Tbaytel. There is no 3G service.

Wifi is available in all public places. The connection is good. Teachers must pay monthly for internet service in their teacherage, which is an unlimited plan. Satellite TV is available with Bell.

In case of any problems with the teacherage, teachers should contact Brian Barkman (Maintenance Engineer at the school) as soon as possible.





Life in the Community



Annual Events

- September: Hunting Week
- October: Partridge Hunt
- November: Rabbit snaring contest
- December: Two weeks of celebrations for Christmas and New Year with daily events
- January: Winter roads open
- Feb- March: Delivery of goods on winter roads

- February: Ice fishing derby in Sachigo Lake, with guests from surrounding communities
- April: Hunting week (many children go hunting with their parents but classes continue)
- May: Community clean-up
- May and June: Fishing derbies
- Several jamborees and feasts throughout the year
- July: Mamowshgawin, a big family reunion at a camping ground

about 15 kilometers from Sachigo Lake

- August: Kids' baseball tournament

Traditions and Customs

Sachigo Lake is a Christian-anchored community. Church services include Pentecostal, Anglican, and Full Gospel.



Regular Activities

- Competitive sports events for hockey (boys and girls) and baseball (in the summer)
- Evening floor hockey for men, women, and youth
- Adult volleyball Wednesday nights
- Movie nights for fundraising, at the school
- Flea market every other Saturday
- The community participates in the Junior Canadian Rangers Program

for youth (12-18 years) which teaches various skills including but not limited to first aid, using rifles safely, hunting and fishing, Native customs and traditions, healthy living, staying in school and drug and alcohol abuse awareness.

- Literacy camp in the summer, run by missionaries who go to Sachigo for the program.

Arena

The Phillip Tait arena is located right next to the school. It is used for hockey and free skating sessions.



Services in the community

- The business centre includes the motel, restaurant, Canada Post office, and laundromat. Many community services offered by the band council are also located in this building.
- There is a large Northern Store, which offers a wide range of products at typical northern prices.
- Community coffee shop
- Healthy Baby Centre
- Health Clinic
- Tourist camp for hunting and fishing. A float plane services the camp and the community.

What's going on in Sachigo Lake?

- There is a private Facebook page, which has information about community events.
- The local radio station has a local broadcast in the evenings. Announcements are also made over the radio when necessary.

General Advice

- It is a good idea to bring high rubber boots, insulated if possible, as the roads can get quite muddy. Teachers are also well advised to bring very warm shoes, snow pants, and other winter gear.
- Bring slippers or other indoor shoes, as everyone is expected to remove outdoor shoes at the entrance of many buildings including the school.
- Because there is a Canada Post branch in Sachigo Lake, Walmart, Amazon and other retailers deliver to the community without any additional fees. Many teachers buy most of their food online, except for produce and other fresh goods.

Around the Community



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Sachigo Lake (previous page)

2

Police Station

3

North Star

4

Produce in the grocery store

5

Main street in Sachigo



Around the Community



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Henry's place (Convenience Store)

②

Community Gym

③

Reverse Osmosis Machine

④

Fishing Derby



④

Sachigo Lake Oji-Cree



Vocabulary and
expressions by
Jeannie Chapman,
Native language teacher

Booshoo – Hello

Mii-no-kee-sha-bah-ya – Good morning

Miigwetch – Thank you

Eh-hah – Yes

Gah-win – No

Oh-doosh-koon-he-weh – Teacher

Ah-wa-shish – Student/child

Sko-noo-gah-mik – School

Niin – Me

Keen – You

Nahbeh – Boy

Equay – Girl

Ohma – Here (present)

Bi-shan ohma – Come here

Anishikasian – What's your name?



OJI-CREE SYLLABICS

Wapiti Education Resource Centre
43 Queen St., P.O. Box 1328
Souris Lookout, Ontario P8T 1B8
(807) 737-7373

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Get to Know Sachigo Lake Community Members

MEET JAMES CHAPMAN,
Education Director

What do you like most about your community?

People in Sachigo Lake are warm and friendly. Because the community is not too big, people can rely on each other to chip in. I also like that the school facilities are well-maintained. Another nice thing is that we have free shipping with Walmart because Canada Post has a post office in Sachigo Lake.

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

I like to go hunting and fishing. I also enjoy collecting wood for the wood stoves. It is good exercise!



MEET EVELYN TAIT,
Office Administrator, Martin McKay Memorial School

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

My favorite activity is reading, even if my house needs cleaning, I read! That's how I brought up my kids; they learned to read early. I did the same with my grandkids and great-grandkids. I buy books when I go out. When I read, it's like I'm watching a movie, like I am imagining another world. I read fiction, novels, romantic books. If hard covers are on sale, I buy them. Any time I see a second hand book store, I go in.

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

I would want them to know about our culture and the seasons here so that they don't have culture shock. Food is expensive at the Northern. They need to know that. They can also order food. I order my food from outside, and that makes it cheaper. They need to bring rubber boots because it rains and the roads get muddy. In wintertime, it gets really cold so you need a really warm jacket and warm clothes.



MEET CAROL BARKMAN,
Teacher Assistant

What do you like most about your community?

It's not too big, so you know everybody. It is a beautiful community. There's always something going on all year long, like fishing derbies, culture week, flea markets. There are different kinds of programs like baseball, Choose Life, cultural activities (e.g. mossbag making), beading, and more.

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

In winter, I play broomball. If it's warm enough, I go for walks with friends; we share our ideas with each other. I just moved back to Sachigo. I left when I was 14. I was home during the summers, Christmas, and March break. It's peaceful here.

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

Life is different here. You'll notice some negative things, like there's no clean drinking water. But we also have a great view. I like that there is the opportunity to go out on the land. Teachers will have the opportunity to go out on the land and learn from Elders.



MEET BRIAN BARKMAN,
Maintenance Engineer at Martin McKay Memorial School

What do you like most about your community?

It's my hometown. I have everything here. My family is here. I get to go hunting and fishing. This is where my parents, my grandparents, my great-grandparents lived. I still hunt on the weekends.

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

I have a wood burning stove, so I have to go cut some wood, gather logs, and bring them home on a sled in winter. In summer, I go out in a truck into the bush to prepare for winter. I love doing these things.

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

Teachers are welcome here. When we have traditional activities, they are invited to join. Kids will love the teachers right away. We have everything you need here (e.g. medical facilities). If something happens, you'll be looked after.



Quick Facts

Community Name
Sachigo Lake First Nation

Tribal Council
Windigo First Nations

Provincial Territorial Organization (PTO)
Nishnawbe-Aski Nation



Population On-Reserve

600+



Language Spoken

**Oji-Cree
and English**



Treaty

Treaty 9



Average Yearly Temperature

-23.9°C 16.2°C
January July



Winter Road Open Dates

Jan - Mar



Getting to and from Sachigo Lake

- Air: North Star, Perimeter, Bearskin and Wasaya Airways offer daily flight to Sachigo Lake and connect to Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay, and Winnipeg.
- Road: There is a winter/ice road connecting Sachigo Lake to Pickle Lake.

Sachigo Lake Directory

Band Office
807-595-2527

Sachigo Lake Motel
807-595-1578

Nishnawbe-Aski Police
807-595-2599

School
807-595-2526



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