

WELCOME TO

God's Lake Narrows First Nation



**TEACH
FOR
CANADA**



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God's Lake Narrows First Nation

Dear Teachers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our community and having you work with our children!

God's Lake Narrows is a beautiful and pristine place. We say that it is a paradise for people who are outdoorsy! Nature is all around you and the lake is at your doorstep. There is even a private fishing lodge that operates here which attracts tourists from all over Canada and the US, who come for the great fishing. It is nature at its best!

God's Lake Narrows is also a happening place. The community is growing and you can see signs of this growth all around the community. The construction of a brand-new school has started, and staff and students alike are very excited. We hope it will be completed in 2020. New teacher units will also be built to accommodate the growth of our new school. There are other construction projects going on too: the former nursing station is being transformed into the new band office and a brand new subdivision that is almost complete which has several new different-sized houses.

We look forward to having you join our school community. Many teachers who have come here have loved it so much that they have stayed (some have been here for decades!) and now call God's Lake Narrows home. We make sure you are appreciated and supported as a teacher. We offer several professional development opportunities during the school year and teacher appreciation initiatives.

You will find that generally our students are respectful and friendly. Our class sizes are capped at 20 students to make sure teachers can give proper care and attention to each student. We hope that you will invest yourself in the students both in class and after school. We ask that teachers help out with 2-3 extracurricular activities along with other events that happen at the school.

I am here to make sure you are successful and happy, so please don't hesitate to reach out at any time with your questions. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sheryl White

Director of Education

God's Lake Narrows First Nation School Board

Community



A Brief History

1825 - 1939

The Cree name for God's Lake is Manitou Sakayigun, which means "Lake of the Gods". God's Lake Narrows used to be called Devil's Lake because the weather can change in an instant on the lake. The name was changed shortly after the treaty was signed.

1909

Treaty 5 was signed. Adhesion to the treaty was a momentous occasion. Men were called into a Council to hear the terms of the treaty, which were explained and approved unanimously.

A formal election was held. The first elected Chief for God's Lake Narrows was Peter Watt and his two councillors were Peter Chubb and Big Simon. Functions were to act as representatives of the people, *listen* to requests and complaints, and *distribute* relief supplies and treaty goods.

1910

First treaty payment.

1924

Completion of the original survey of God's Lake Narrows. The majority of the reserve land is along the northwestern shore of the southern portion of God's Lake.

1930s - 1940s

A coal mine operated 18-20 miles from God's Lake Narrows. People from the community worked there and more people settled in the Narrows area. The coal mine shut down in 1945.

1993

God's Lake Narrows First Nation gained local control of education.

2014 - 2015

The coal mine tower was demolished.

2019

New nursing station was completed.

2019

Construction of a brand new school begins.



The Land

There are two parts to God's Lake Narrows: the island, which is the main reserve and Crown land, and which are connected by a bridge that goes over the narrows. The majority of the reserve land is along the northwestern shore of the southern portion of God's Lake Narrows. The majority of the population is on the east side mainland. The community has several neighbourhoods, with many houses built along the water. The community is surrounded by trees, water, and small rocky hills.

Animals that are commonly seen in the area include bears, moose, beavers, lynx, muskrats, otters and wolves. Common fish in the lake include pike, walleye, lake trout, brook trout, perch, and suckers. There are also many pelicans, swans, eagles, crows, and ravens in the area.

God's Lake Narrows Community Map



God's Lake Narrows First Nation School



Welcome!

School Population
370

Grades
Nursery (age 4)
to Grade 9

Principal
Lawrence Einarsson

Vice-Principal
Douglas Podaima

**Home and School
Coordinator**
Ruth Bee

In 1993, God's Lake Narrows First Nation regained local control of education in the community. The school is guided by the school board's mission statement:

"Our mission is to help students of God's Lake Narrows First Nation School meet their educational needs by giving them the opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to retain their cultural identity while enabling them to deal with the social, cultural and economic challenges of life."

What is the school most proud of...

Our school is proud of our students. We always get compliments on how well-behaved they are. They are respectful and they listen.

Facilities

The current school includes 16 classrooms, a computer lab, industrial arts class, gym, arts room, cafeteria and school kitchen. There is an exercise room with weights and equipment that teachers can use.

A brand new school is currently being built and will hopefully be completed by 2020.



A Day in the Life of a Teacher

8:00am Teachers are expected to arrive at school by 8 to meet students and get ready for the day.

8:55am Oh! Canada, Morning Prayer and announcements. After announcements all students are welcome to participate in the breakfast program in the multi-purpose room.

9:00-9:10am The whole school participates in Drop Everything and Read (DEAR).

10:30-10:40am Recess for elementary school students.

11:30am Lunch break for elementary school students in the multi-purpose room (40 minutes).

12:30pm Lunch break for junior high students in the multi-purpose room (40 minutes).

Teachers and students stay at school for lunch as there is a hot lunch program.

1:50-2:00pm Afternoon recess for elementary school students.

3:10pm Classes end for the day.

Teachers usually get 6 preps per 6 day school cycle. Preps include Cree class, computers, phys ed, fine arts, and shop.

Teachers and EAs are expected to stay at school until all the students have gone home. Teachers are also asked to help with 2-3 extracurricular activities. There's a duty roster for staff for inside and outside duty.





Services

Unique Classes Offered

- Outdoor Education
- Life Skills

Extracurricular Activities

- Fundraising Committee for school events
- Social Committee (e.g. students put on dances)
- Sports Committee (e.g. for inter-community sports competitions)
- Basketball, hockey
- We encourage teachers to start a badminton club as there is a lot of interest from students.

Special School Events

- Orientation Week: The last week of August, all staff participate in the orientation week. The first day is for introductions, the second day the insurance company presents, the third day there's a workshop on spectrum disorders, the fourth day teachers have time to set-up their class, and the fifth day the staff and community gather for a BBQ.
- Community Feast: Hosted in the fall so that community members can meet the teachers.
- School Bazaar (fall and spring): A big event for the whole community, like a carnival without the rides. There are games and prizes, and a rummage sale for clothes. The money raised goes to the school (e.g. to pay for the hot lunch program)
- Christmas Concert: All classes participate and many community members attend.
- Fundraising Committee: Fundraise for bag of candy and a Christmas present for every student. It is a school tradition that goes back many years.
- Culture Days: In May the whole community gets involved, particularly Elders who teach students how to fillet fish, how to prepare a goose, etc.





Teacherages

Teacherages are located right next to the school. There are one bedroom, two bedroom, and three bedroom units. Teachers usually have their own private unit. Teacherages include the main furniture and appliances, including a TV, vacuum cleaner, microwave, bed, couch, etc. Kitchen and bedding are not provided.

Teachers need to buy a modem and get it set-up ahead of time. It is best to contact Bell MTS as soon as possible to set-up an appointment. If they have an appointment available over the summer, arrangements can be made to give them access to the teacherage. There are shared laundry facilities available in the teacherages.

Rent for the teacherage is taken off teachers' paychecks. Rent is \$200 for a one bedroom, \$250 for a two bedroom, and \$300 for a three bedroom.

We are hoping that cellphone service will be available in the fall through Bell MTS.





Life in the Community

Traditions and Customs

In recent years there has been a return to traditions in the community, including Sundances and Sweats. Community members attended traditional ceremonies elsewhere and brought back these customs and how to practice them to God's Lake Narrows. Many people, women in particular, participate in traditional powwow dances (e.g. shawl dance).

The community is also Christian anchored. There are three churches in God's Lake Narrows: United, Roman Catholic, and Pentacostal.

Community Events

- **Sports Events:** There is an annual hockey tournament in which communities from the region participate. There is also an inter-community broomball tournament. These competitions happen from January to March during the winter road season.
- **Halloween:** There are a series of activities to celebrate Halloween such as a best decorated porch and yard competition, best Halloween cake contest, etc.
- **Christmas:** December is filled with activities like trivia, a snowman making contest, a Christmas lights contest, a Christmas cake contest, etc.
- **Hunting Trips:** The health staff organizes hunting trips where they pair a youth with an experienced hunter, all expenses paid; they also organize couples hunting trips.
- **Summer Camp:** Awasis organizes a family camping trip in the summer.
- **August:** There is a youth conference in August which consists of different workshops around a theme that changes every year.



Regular Activities

- Awasis organizes a gym night on Tuesdays and Thursdays, usually they play volleyball. There is also a volleyball tournament. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays/Saturdays are community gym night.
- Mondays: Native arts and crafts night.
- On payday Friday the school staff has dinner together at the lodge restaurant.

Community Facilities

- The Northern Store is the main grocery store in the community. It is located on the island. Teachers have access to the school truck and there is a schedule for grocery shopping trips.
- There are also a few convenience stores that mostly sell snacks, one is located right next to the school.
- There is a brand new nursing station in God's Lake Narrows, which is located a short walk from the school.
- There are two restaurants in the community, one is attached to the hotel. The other is at the fishing lodge on the island.
- There is an RCMP detachment on the island.

What's going on in God's Lake Narrows?

The best way to learn about what is going on in the community is through the local radio station. There are also announcements posted in public places (Northern Store, band office, school, etc.). There is no community Facebook page.



Around the Community



①

New Housing

②

Former Nursing Station (being converted into a new band office)

③

New Nursing Station

④

Airport

⑤

Bridge over the Narrows

⑥

Pentacostal Church

⑦

Restaurant

⑧

United Church

⑨

Power Plant

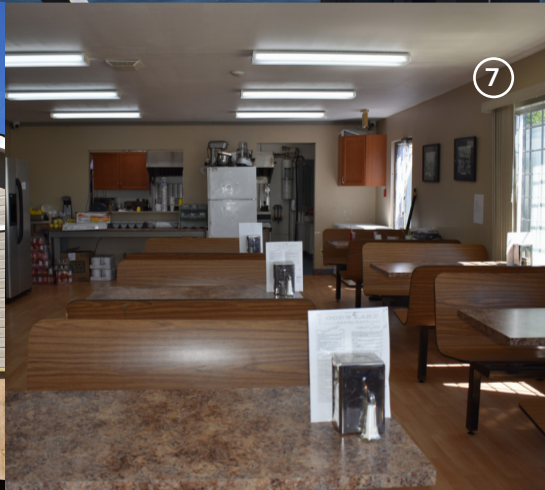




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6



7



8



9

12

Quick Facts

Population On-Reserve



**Approximately
1500**

Language Spoken



**Swampy Cree
and English**

Treaty



Treaty 5

Average Yearly Temperature



-22°C
January

18.5°C
July

Access



Year-round



Jan - Mar



Getting to and from God's Lake Narrows

- There are at least two flights a day 7 days a week to God's Lake Narrows through Northway and Perimeter. Connections are made through Thompson or Winnipeg. The direct flight takes about 1.5 hours.
- From January to March the community is connected by winter roads. The drive to Winnipeg takes 13 hours, 5 hours of which are on the winter road. The winter road connects to the highway near Norway House.

Goods and Mail

- The Northern Store has a Canada Post office, where packages and mail arrive. It usually takes 3-4 days for delivery from within Canada. The maintenance staff picks up the mail for teachers and other staff and brings it to the school.
- Many Winnipeg grocery stores ship to God's Lake Narrows including Harris Meats, Gabe's Meats, and Food Fare. Deliveries come on Perimeter flights.
- The Northern store receives its freight on Mondays and Thursdays, so those are the best days for fresh produce.



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