

# PICKLE LAKE

## ONTARIO'S LAST FRONTIER

The pavement may end here, but our town is a wonderful place for new beginnings. The air is clean and the lakes are clear. Many of the current residents have been in the community for 50 years or more; the stories they tell are real life examples of the courage, determination, and sense of humour necessary to build a life and future in the Canadian North.

Vast virgin forests, never touched by a logger's axe, stretch for hundreds of miles beyond the horizon. Dotted this region are thousands of lakes and rivers, harbouring the majestic Canadian Monarch of the forest - the Moose. Aside from moose, the region offers viewing opportunities for woodland caribou, the elusive timber wolf, black bear, other fur bearing animals, game birds, bald eagles, the ever present song birds and migratory birds such as ducks and geese.

Along with the abundance of fish and game, our boreal forests provide the mushroom connoisseur with a variety of tasty morsels. Wild mushrooms and wild rice - a gourmet's delight! The wild rice harvest is a local native industry as well as an annual tradition. There is a wide variety of rare plants, wild herbs, and vegetation, such as the endangered Lady Slipper - for the horticulturist.

This huge wilderness is only three hundred miles from the coast of the Hudson Bay, Ontario's Sub-Arctic; and is located at the end of Highway 599 which is accessible from Highway 17 on an all season paved road running 300 km north of Ignace. Travelling from the west it is also accessible via Highway 72 and Highway 516. Pickle Lake is the most northerly community in Ontario that is accessible year round by road.

A gravel road, known as Hwy 808, stretches 250 km further north and west of Pickle Lake to Windigo Lake. Winter freeze-up allows for the construction of the largest winter road system in Ontario, providing access to, and egress from, isolated communities north.

The Pickle Lake area is the starting point for adventuresome canoeists desiring to paddle to Hudson/James Bay, the Winisk Wilderness Waterway or the Albany System. The Pipestone, Otoskwin-Attawapiskat and the Albany Rivers are accessible for the canoeist or the white-water rafters.

Pickle Lake has a number of tourist outfitters that can cater to every need and budget. Services range from drive-in or boat-in housekeeping establishments to fly-in lodges and outpost camps. Non residents camping in the area but not using the services of an outfitter, must have a Crown Land Camping Permit, available from the local Ministry of Natural Resources.

There is also scheduled air service daily into Pickle Lake from Thunder Bay and Sioux Lookout, as well as a regular Bus service.

The all-season gravel road provides many outdoor recreational opportunities. There is direct access points to various lakes and rivers, boat launching sites and picnic areas. For the outdoor winter enthusiast the area abounds with unlimited space for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and ice-fishing.

Both local residents and the itinerant traveller can enjoy sand beaches, berry picking, rock hounding, searching for Hudson Bay agate or ancient native pictographs, panning for gold, hiking and canoeing and watch our Northern Lights dance all over the sky. We are known for our annual **BLACK FLY Festival** that is held on the July 1st weekend and our annual **ICE WORM Festival** held in late February or early March.

The Township also includes a natural ice curling rink; bowling alley; a library; Community Hall; and an indoor Arena. Several Rotary Clubs are available as well.

The residents of Pickle Lake invite you to come share with us this last frontier; it may not be here forever.

*The Township of Pickle Lake*