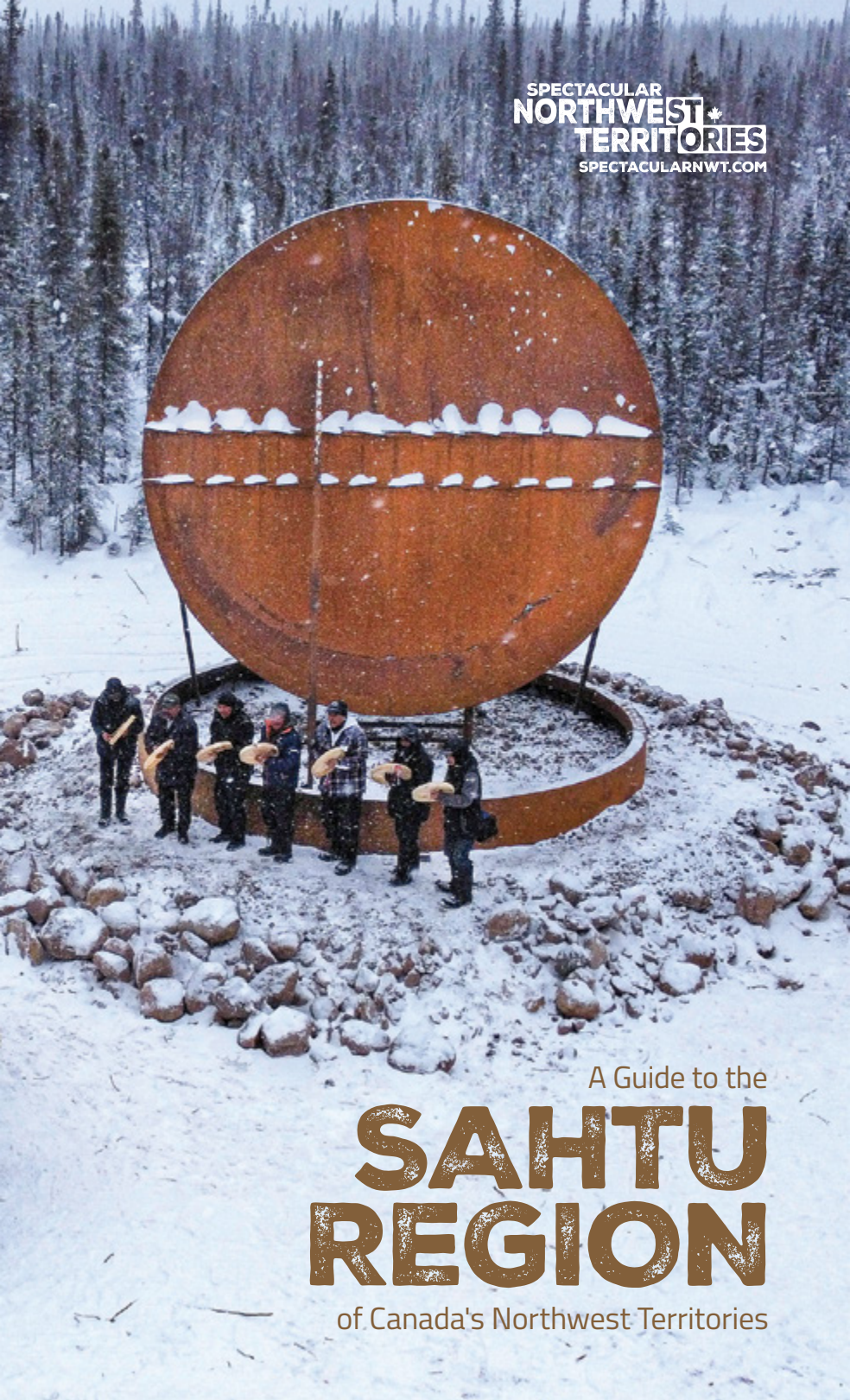


SPECTACULAR NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
SPECTACULARNWT.COM

A Guide to the

SAHTU REGION

of Canada's Northwest Territories



QUICK FACTS

The Mackenzie River where it passes Norman Wells is 6 km (3.7 mi) wide.

NORMAN WELLS MACKENZIE RIVER NICKY LYNN RICHARDS / NWTT

- The Canol Project was considered the largest construction project in the world since the establishment of the Panama Canal
- Sahtu has more National Historic Sites than any other region in the NWT.
- Home of a grand inland body of water, the largest entirely in Canada, known as Great Bear Lake — nearly 500 metres deep.
- The first horse was introduced into the Sahtu in the 1940s during the building of the Canol Pipeline. Today there are only two Mackenzie mountain outfitters who use horses for guided hunts.
- There are four distinct Dene peoples in the Sahtu each with their own dialects and practices.
- The North Slavey language of the Sahtu is identified as part of the Athabaskan language group which stretches as far south as Arizona and New Mexico.
- The world-record muskox was hunted near Norman Wells in the Sahtu.
- The Sahtu is the only place in the NWT that you can drive to the Arctic Circle.



KEELE RIVER MIKE PEAKE / NWTT

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Check out the Sahtu section of the Spectacular NWT website at: www.spectacularnwt.com/destinations/sahtu.



NICKY LYNN RICHARDS/NWTT



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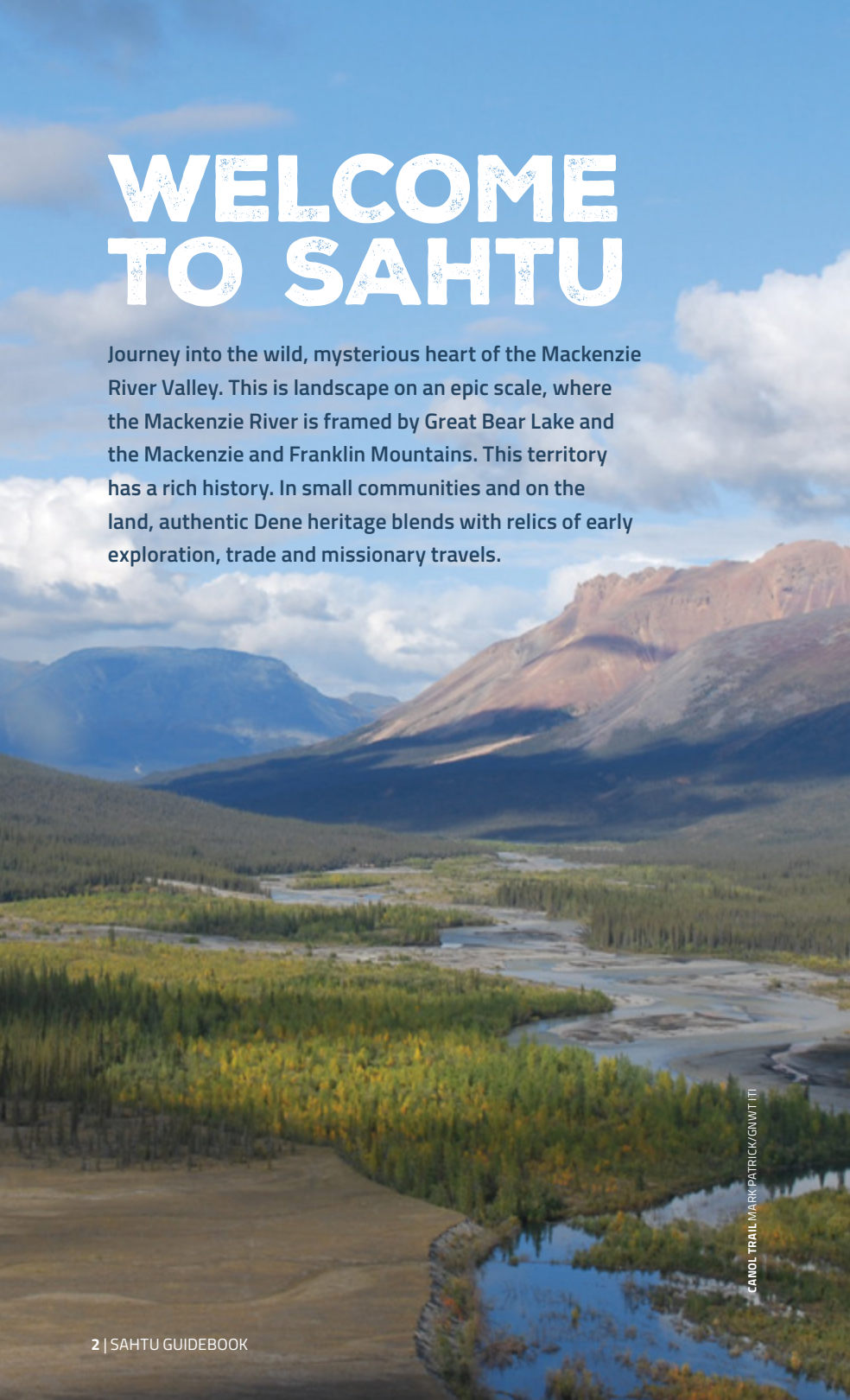
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WELCOME TO SAHTU

Journey into the wild, mysterious heart of the Mackenzie River Valley. This is landscape on an epic scale, where the Mackenzie River is framed by Great Bear Lake and the Mackenzie and Franklin Mountains. This territory has a rich history. In small communities and on the land, authentic Dene heritage blends with relics of early exploration, trade and missionary travels.



CANOL TRAIL MARK PATRICK/GNWT ITI



The drum is an important symbol in the Sahtu. In 2021, this 6-meter high steel drum was erected to mark the position of the Arctic Circle on the road between Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake. This is the only road in the NWT that crosses the Arctic Circle.

HUGE DRUM TO MARK THE ARCTIC CIRCLE NICKY RICHARDS / NWTT

THE BEATING HEART OF THE NORTH

Here in the centre of the Northwest Territories, the frantic outside world has not yet arrived. The Sahtu is the home of a grand inland sea, Great Bear Lake –slithering with colossal trout, cliff-flanked, and salted with alluring place-names: Conjuror Bay, Grizzly Bear Mountain, the Scented Grass Hills.

Here, too, is the North's king of rivers, the mammoth Mackenzie, up to seven kilometres wide, pressing northward with its watery burden of driftwood, fish, barges and canoeists, and joined along the way by wild tributaries like the Redstone, the Keele and the Mountain.

In the west of the Sahtu, you'll find a jagged world: the Mackenzie Mountains, pierced by only one path, the famous Canol Heritage Trail, and bustling with mountain sheep, caribou, moose and other game.

The Sahtu has a rich history and vibrant Indigenous culture that your hosts will share as you make your way through the land and the five communities thriving on the cusp of the Arctic Circle. Expert craftspeople in each community fashion traditional tools and clothing using the resources of the land. Visit with Dene and Metis families and see how moccasins are made from locally prepared moosehide...just one of the many unique and valued examples of traditional Sahtu culture.



7 REASONS TO VISIT THE SAHTU

01

THE CANOL HERITAGE TRAIL

Arguably North America's most rigorous backpacking trail, this 372 km (220 mi) trek follows the route of a defunct military road built during WW II to transect the Mackenzie Mountains. It starts across the river from Norman Wells and ends at the Yukon Border.

ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT

02

GREAT BEAR LAKE

Great Bear Lake is the largest freshwater body entirely within Canada. At 31,000 square km it covers more of the earth's surface than Belgium, is the eighth largest lake on earth and is home to world record fish.

03

MACKENZIE RIVER BREAK UP

View Canada's longest river start its own spring cleaning and shed its winter ice during River Break Up. See towers of ice crash into each other and pile onto shore during this spectacular annual event.

04

PADDLE ON SPECTACULAR RIVERS

Sahtu has a river for every type of paddler. If it's whitewater you're after, try the Mountain River, one of several rivers that empty into the Mackenzie. Or there is the more placid Natla/Keele, with few or no portages.



KEELE RIVER CONNOR FURNEAUX/ NWTT

05

ADVENTURE THROUGH THE MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS

A flightseeing trip into the Mackenzie Mountains will give you a bird's eye view of Carcajou Falls and Dodo Canyon. You can also go snowmobiling in the mountains, go for a guided hunt, paddle through the mountains, see aurora over the mountains, etc.

06

THE RAMPARTS (MACKENZIE RIVER)

South of Fort Good Hope, the Mackenzie River narrows from almost 2 km (6,600 feet) wide to barely more than 100 m (109 yards) wide as it passes through a 12 km (7.5 mi) rapid river canyon. The steep, crenelated walls of the canyon account for its name – the Ramparts.

07

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN CULTURE/ HISTORY

The culture of the Indigenous peoples is evident in all its communities. See how the Dene and Métis continue to use the resources of the land, watch hand game tournaments in Deline and Tulít'a, and stand by the largest steel drum in Canada between Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake.

SAHTU PARKS



The Sahtu has one National Park Reserve, one territorial park and several municipal parks.

NÁÁTS'ĮHCH'OH NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

One of Canada's most recently designated and remote parks, it offers whitewater paddling and off-the-grid hiking. It is adjacent to Nahanni National Park Reserve and is nearly 5,000 square km. The park is named after a mountain that is credited with great powers by the local people. A park office is located in Tulít'a.

NICKY RICHARDS

BANDY LAKE CAMPGROUND, NORMAN WELLS

Bandy Lake Campground has a gazebo, cooking spots, and picnic tables near the lake itself. Take the quarry turnoff on Canyon Creek Road before strolling down the walking trail to enjoy the beauty of Bandy Lake.

HODGSON'S LAKE (JACKFISH LAKE), NORMAN WELLS

This campground and day use area is popular with residents of Norman Wells as well as visitors, and is ideal for swimming and family fun.

LITTLE LAKE GAZEBOS, DELINE

If you're looking to get out and see more of Deline, take the gravelled walking trails around Little Lake and enjoy two gazebos, a cooking area, and a boat launch. These historic trails are where Sir John Franklin's men wintered when they first arrived in Deline.

MACKENZIE AND BEAR RIVER CAMPGROUNDS, TULÍT'A

These two campgrounds are located near the community of Tulít'a, and cater mainly to summer river travellers. The sites include tent pads, a covered picnic area, a sand volleyball court and walking trails. The parks can accommodate up to 40 visitors.

MACKINNON TERRITORIAL PARK, NORMAN WELLS

Located in the community of Norman Wells, on the banks of the Mackenzie River, this park offers a great view across the river to the Mackenzie Mountains. The park has seven non-powered campsites, available firewood, washrooms, drinking water, a sand volleyball court, and a playground. There is also a gazebo, teepees, a Frisbee golf course, a cultural interpretation area, a BBQ for public use , and a cabin.

NICKY RICHARDS



HISTORIC, HERITAGE & PROTECTED SITES



NWT ARCHIVES/PWNHC

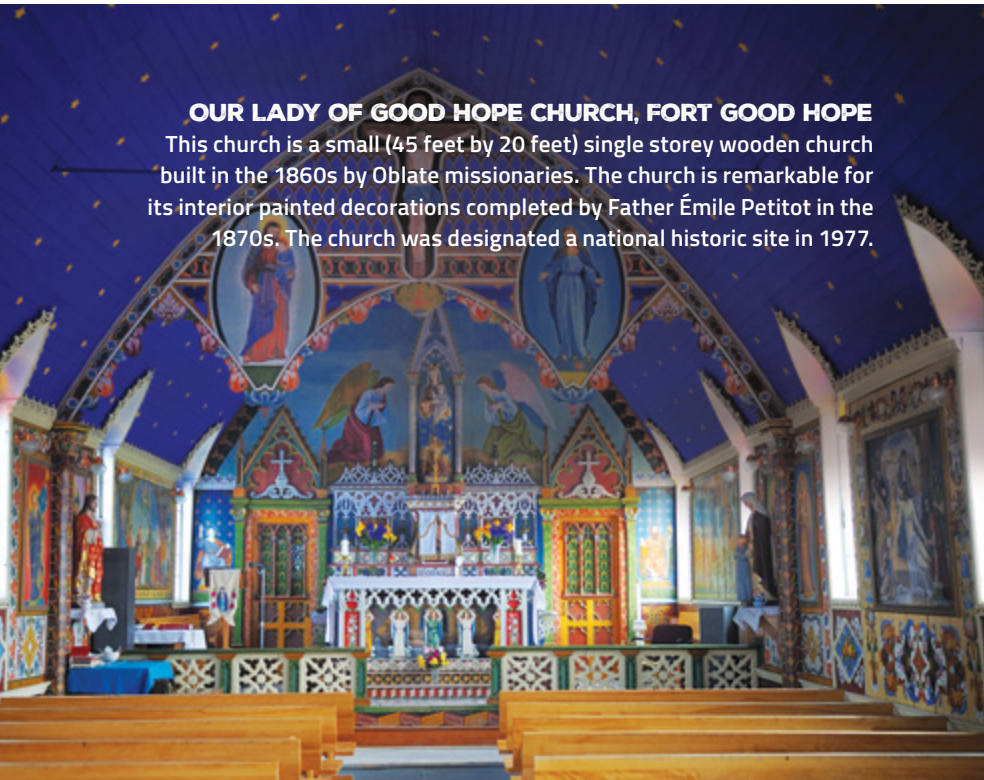
DÉLĮNĘ FISHERY/FRANKLIN'S FORT, DÉLĮNĘ

The Délįnę Fishery/Franklin's Fort was designated a national historic site of Canada in 1996. It was constructed to provide a wintering place for nearly 50 people in Sir John Franklin's second overland expedition from 1825 to 1827. It is also the site of one of the most productive Dene fisheries in the Mackenzie River drainage area and for centuries was used by the Indigenous residents of the area.

SAOYÚ-ʔEHDACHO (GRIZZLY BEAR MOUNTAIN AND SCENTED GRASS HILLS)

This, the largest national historic site in Canada, is made up of two large peninsulas that reach into Great Bear Lake from the west and south. This vast cultural landscape blends the natural and spiritual worlds of the Sahtu Dene and helps define them as a people.

HANS PFAFF/NWTT



OUR LADY OF GOOD HOPE CHURCH, FORT GOOD HOPE

This church is a small (45 feet by 20 feet) single storey wooden church built in the 1860s by Oblate missionaries. The church is remarkable for its interior painted decorations completed by Father Émile Petitot in the 1870s. The church was designated a national historic site in 1977.



PAT KANE/NWTT

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Sahtu has been the cherished home of its Indigenous peoples for centuries. It's a respectful relationship between people and the land that has kept the Region such a beautiful and enduring part of the North. If you're visiting the spectacular landmarks and vistas of the Region or any of the Sahtu's communities, you are expected to treat it as respectfully as you would anyone's home. Treating the land as well as the people of the Sahtu with consideration doesn't take a lot of effort. For many people, this behaviour is obvious, but it's important to the people of the Sahtu that their home remains as spectacular as it has always been, so that it can continue to be for generations to come.

- No littering
- Be respectful towards the land and Elders
- Contribute to the local economy
- Understand that there are certain areas and events that are reserved for the local community only
- Do not engage in disrespectful behaviour
- Be mindful of sacred areas
- Learn local history and culture
- Low impact camping



ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT

ANGLICAN CHURCH, TULÍT'A

Build in 1880 by Allan Hardisty, this church is one of the oldest standing buildings in the Northwest Territories. The dovetailed log structure is an excellent example of the building style of the time.

FIRST HOCKEY GAME ON GREY GOOSE LAKE, DÉLĮNĘ

Site of the first documented location of hockey played in the Northwest Territories. Franklin's written record of his stay in Déljnę (1825-27 overland expedition) marks the earliest eye-witness account of a game of ice hockey being played.

TSÁ TUÉ BIOSPHERE RESERVE, DÉLĮNĘ

This UNESCO biosphere reserve encompasses Great Bear Lake, along with part of its watershed, and is home to caribou, moose, muskox and an abundance of fish life. The reserve, the largest such area in Canada, is managed by the Sahtuto'ine of Déljnę.

BERN WILL BROWN MUSEUM, COLVILLE LAKE

The late renowned painter and priest Bern Will Brown helped build and decorate a small log church in the community. An interesting museum describes traditional life in the area just a few generations ago.

ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT

BEAR ROCK AND THE STORY OF YAMORIA, TULÍT'A

Guarding the mouth of the Bear River where it joins the Mackenzie River, scenic Bear Rock plays a part in traditional Sahtu Dene history. The great leader Yamoria cleared the land of enormous beavers and stretched their hides on Bear Rock, where traces of their pelts can still be seen. The small community of Tulít'a is home to the Mountain Dene, who used to winter in the mountains and return to the valley each spring on raging rivers in huge mooseskin boats.



ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT

NORMAN WELLS HISTORICAL CENTRE, NORMAN WELLS

The centre opened in 1989 to tell the story of the Norman Wells oil field and the Canol project. It also includes information on the discovery of uranium at Great Bear Lake, and the construction of an oil pipeline to supply southern Canada with Norman Wells "sweet" crude. Displays also include geology exhibits and samples of some of the unique local fossils.

Today the centre's mandate has expanded to preserve and promote the cultural and historical memory of the Sahtu settlement area. Traditional Dene lifestyles are represented in external displays including a log cabin built by local Rick Muyers and furnished by a Dene elder. Early trucks from the Canol project and a tiny tug and barge also stand sentinel outside the museum.

PROPHET AYHA'S HOUSE, DÉLĮNĘ

Délįnę was home to the Prophet Louis Ayha who gave more than 30 prophecies to the people of Déli¸ne¸ during his time on earth between 1857 and 1940. There is a small sanctuary in Déli¸ne¸ in memory of this revered visionary.

AVIATION MUSEUM, NORMAN WELLS

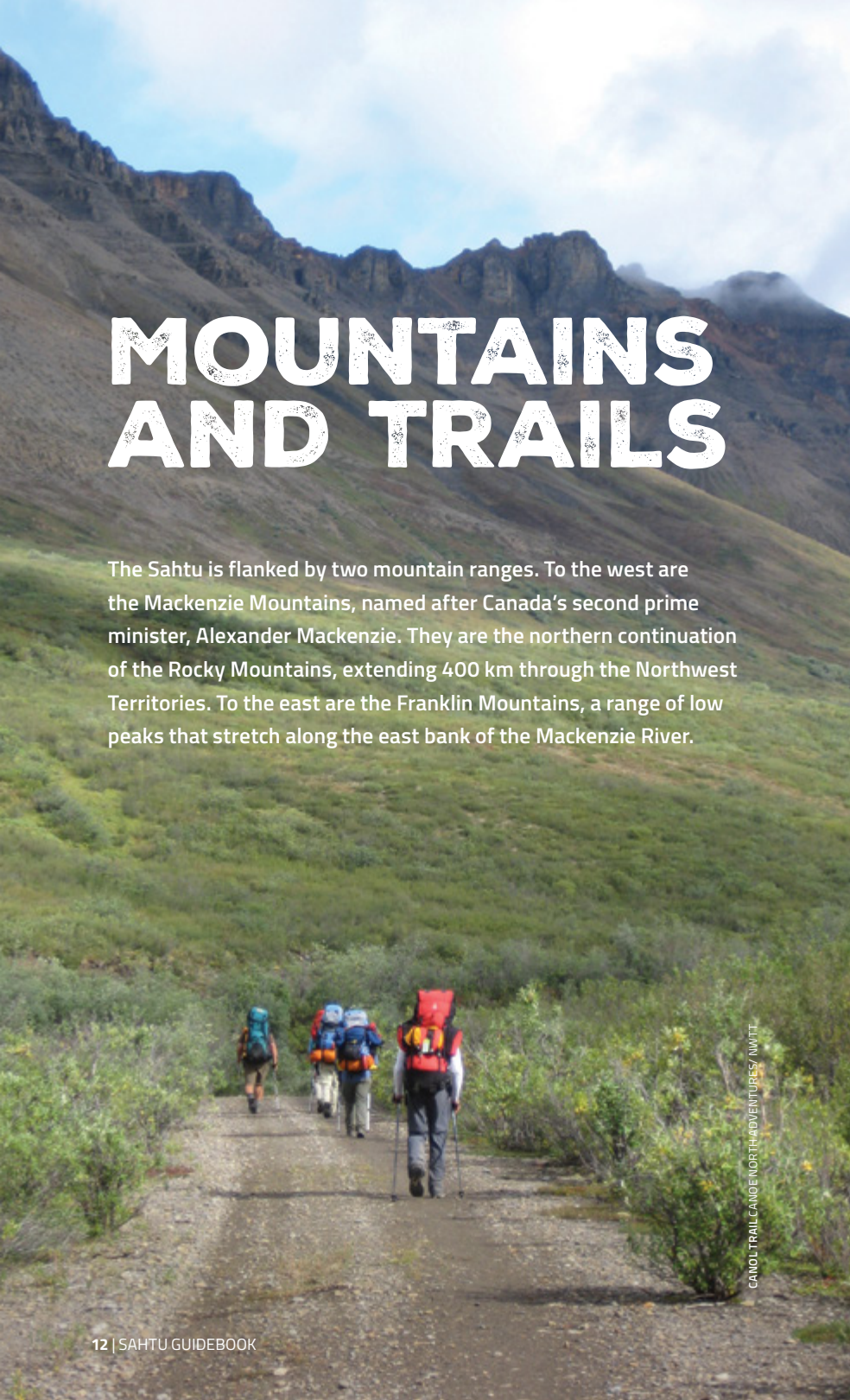
Located at DOT Lake at the North-Wright float plane dock, it honours the pioneers of northern aviation, especially those from the Sahtu. Adjacent air service buildings are backdrops for full scale murals and portraits of vintage planes and pilots.

TS'UDÉ NILĮNÉ TUYETA, FORT GOOD HOPE

This future territorial protected area consists of more than 10,000 square-kilometres of taiga plains and cordillera west of Fort Good Hope, which is home to grizzly bears, caribou, peregrine falcons and important for migrating birds.

MOUNTAINS AND TRAILS

The Sahtu is flanked by two mountain ranges. To the west are the Mackenzie Mountains, named after Canada's second prime minister, Alexander Mackenzie. They are the northern continuation of the Rocky Mountains, extending 400 km through the Northwest Territories. To the east are the Franklin Mountains, a range of low peaks that stretch along the east bank of the Mackenzie River.



CANOL TRAIL CANOE NORTH ADVENTURES / NWTT



DODO CANYON PFAFF/NWTT

CANOL HERITAGE TRAIL

The Mackenzie Mountains in the Sahtu Region are home to one of North America's most spectacular and difficult hikes, the Canol Heritage Trail, suitable for only experienced and well equipped hikers. To hike the complete trail can take from two to three weeks.

The 372 km (231 mi) trail was originally built during World War II as part of an oil pipeline and supply route stretching through the Mackenzie Mountains from Norman Wells to Whitehorse. Beginning in the east, the trail winds through the magnificent Mackenzie Mountains, up to MacMillan Pass on the continental divide and into the Yukon.



ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT

It offers a hike through the nearly forgotten history of one of Canada's first mega projects, in a landscape that is both captivating and intriguing.



ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT

About 48 km (mile 26) into your hike, you'll encounter the rocky and breathtaking Dodo Canyon – a deep scenic gulch carved by a meandering river. Check out the spires and hoodoos reminiscent of a desert in the U.S. southwest.

Carcajou Falls is another spectacular site located in the area. You will need to venture off the trail near mile 50 to reach the falls. These falls splash over a stony escarpment sending spray into the mountain air. They are considered one of the most idyllic waterfalls in the North, but are seen by few.

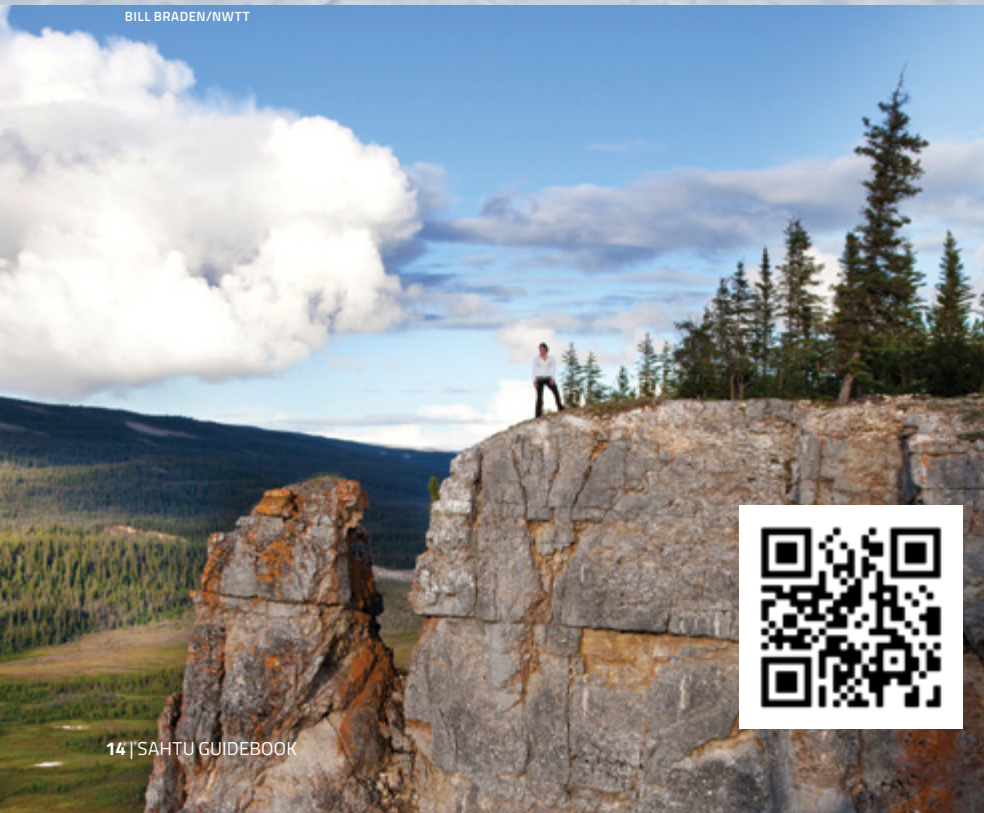
Not up for the hike? You can take in the magnificent scenery and wildlife of the Mackenzie Mountains via a flightseeing trip from Norman Wells.

DAY HIKES

In addition to the Canol Trail, there are numerous other hiking trails in the Sahtu. Here are some shorter hikes that start in or near communities.



VINCENT WALKER



BILL BRADEN/NWTT

OLD BALDY TRAIL NETWORK, FORT GOOD HOPE

- starts at north end of the community
- 2.5 km one way
- Old Baldy is the high point of a long esker
- meter markers along full length of trail

HAMAR MOUNTAIN TRAIL, NORMAN WELLS

- starts at Jackfish Lake and goes to Discovery Ridge
- 6 km (3.7 mi) one way
- the high point on Hamar Mountain (967 m, 3173 ft) provides excellent views of the Mackenzie Valley and Kelly and Lennie Lakes
- meter markers along full length of trail

FOSSIL CANYON, NORMAN WELLS

- part of Hamar Mountain Trail
- once a seabed where today visitors can find Devonian era fossils

VALLEY VIEW AND KEE SCARP TRAILS, NORMAN WELLS

- 3.8 km (4 mi) loop
- mountain biking as well as hiking

RIDGE TRAIL, NORMAN WELLS

- suitable for quads
- 8.4 km (5.2 mi)
- goes to Bosworth Falls

BEAR ROCK TRAIL, TULÍT'A

- starts across the Bear river from Tulít'a
- goes to the top of Bear Rock
- hike takes about two to three hours

NORMAN WELLS CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS, NORMAN WELLS

- obtain a map from the Norman Wells Historical Society
- rent gear from the Town Recreation department

Scan here for the Sahtu section of Spectacular NWT website and information on trails and guided hiking opportunities.

Operators

The following operators can help with your visit to the Canol Trail and through the Mackenzie Mountains:

Dechenla Wilderness Lodge
867-667-2639
Located at the western end of the Canol Trail.

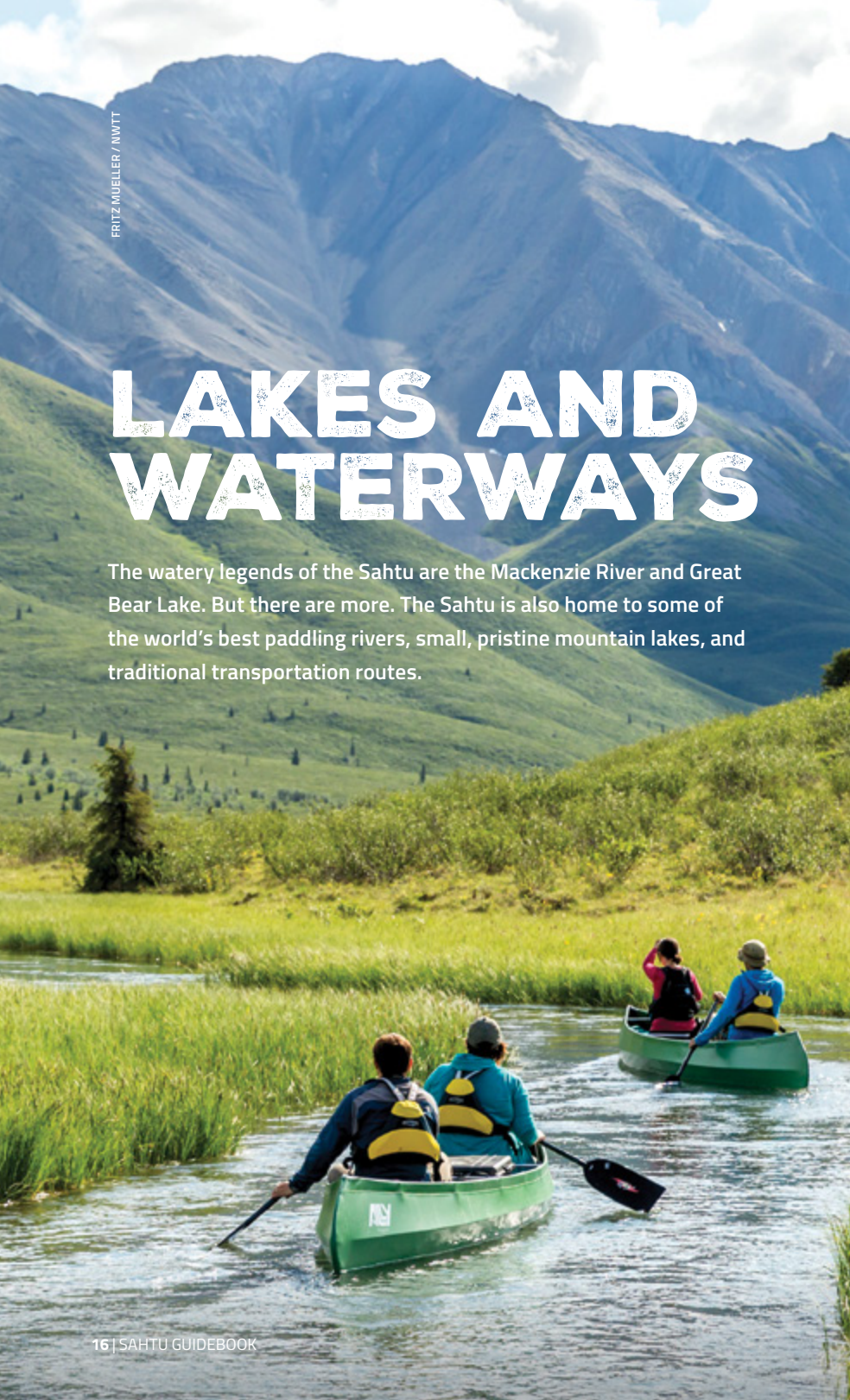
Mountain River Outfitters
867-335-3596
Mountain biking, hiking/backpacking, snowmobile tours

North-Wright Airways
867-587-2288, Ext 1009
Flightseeing tours in the Mackenzie Mountains, hiking/backpacking, mountain biking, snowmobile tours, and cross country skiing.

Ram Head Outfitters
780-446-8774
Wilderness adventures in the Mackenzie Mountains.

Sahtu Adventures
867-447-3619
Custom trips across Sahtu including Bear Rock, also logistical support and gear rental.

Norman Wells Land Corporation
867-587-2455



FRITZ MUELLER / NWTT

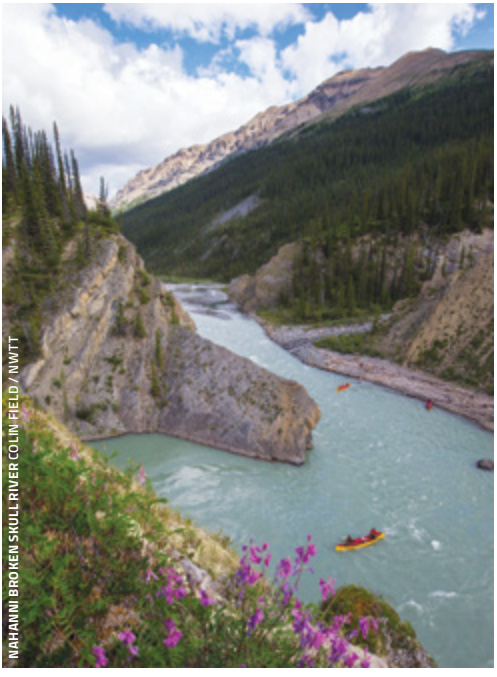
LAKES AND WATERWAYS

The watery legends of the Sahtu are the Mackenzie River and Great Bear Lake. But there are more. The Sahtu is also home to some of the world's best paddling rivers, small, pristine mountain lakes, and traditional transportation routes.

PADDLING

From peaceful paddles to wild whitewater adventures, 16 different river systems (both within and outside the Sahtu) are accessible from Norman Wells.

If it's excitement you want, try the Mountain River, thought by some to be the most beautiful and challenging in the NWT. Jutting almost straight up out of the shoreline on either side of you are the massive cliffs and outcrops of the Mackenzie Mountains with some peaks nearly 3,000 m (9,800 ft) high. Or paddle the Natla-Keele, slowly winding through 490 km (304 mi) of sacred mountain lands, where the Mountain Dene used to travel in long boats of moosehide. If you are looking for more remote and seldom visited rivers, try the Redstone, the Ravensthroat or the Broken Skull – all scenic and challenging mountain rivers.



NAHANNI BROKEN SKULL RIVER COLIN FIELD / NWTT

Operators

Blackfeather Wilderness Adventures
888-849-7668
Guided canoe trips

Canoe North Adventures
519-941-6654
Guided canoe trips

Jack Pine Paddle
867-445-4512
Guided canoe trips

Mountain River Outfitters
867-335-3596
Guided canoe trips

Nahanni Wilderness Adventures
867-668-3180
Guided canoe trips

North-Wright Airways
867-587-2288
Ext. 1009
Transport of passengers and canoes

Sahtu Adventures
867-447-3619
Canoe and camping gear rentals, guided canoe trips

SAHTU RIVER MAP







SAHTU NICKY LYNN RICHARDS / NWTT



KEELE RIVER SAHTU CONNOR FURNEAUX / NWTT



AURORA WATCHING

Seeing Northern Lights in the Northwest Territories is a different experience from seeing them anywhere else. Here, the Northern Lights are the strongest in the world – the colours are brighter, the displays last longer, the movements are more elaborate – all of this creates a world of spectacular dances performed right above us almost every night.

AURORA OVER THE MACKENZIE RIVER NICKY RICHARDS / NWTT

AURORA

More than just brief glimpses of colour in the sky, Northern Lights in the NWT are humbling and otherworldly and fill our open skies with memorable and magical displays. There's no better place to see the best Aurora in the world than the Northwest Territories.

In the Sahtu, you can enjoy both of the NWT's Aurora seasons - autumn, when the land and lakes are still warm, and winter, when the lakes are frozen over. It's easy to get away from city lights and enjoy a front-row seat to this mysterious, magical, and life-changing cosmic dance.

Operators

Grey Goose Lodge
867-589-5500
Ext. 3099

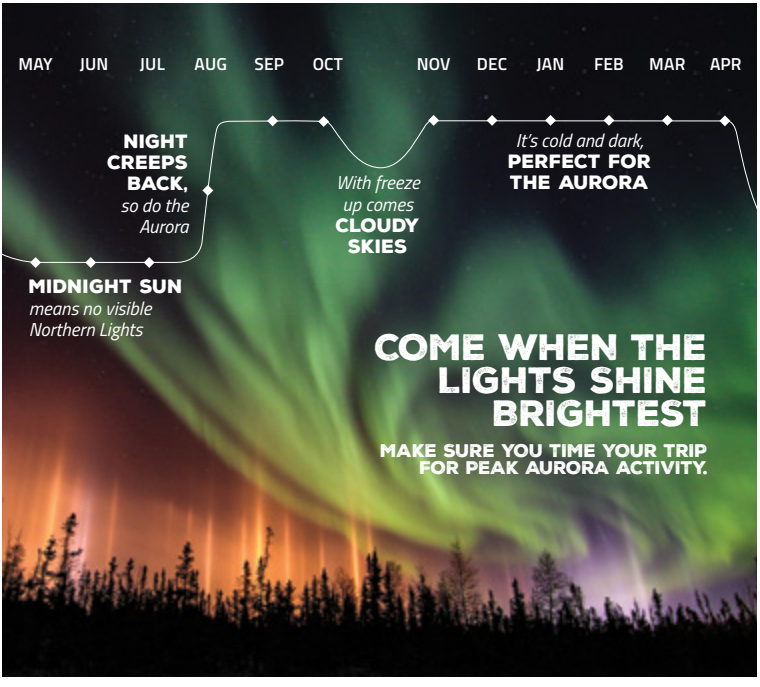
Norman Wells Land Corporation
867-587-2455

North-Wright Air
867-587-2333
Ext. 1000

Raven's Throat Outfitting ULC
867-332-7286

Sahtu Adventures
867-447-3619

LIGHT PILLARS IN NORMAN WELLS NICKY RICHARDS / NWTT





BRUCE KENNY

FISHING

Anglers from all over the world are amazed with the pure, pristine waters of the Sahtu. As the home to the greatest freshwater lakes and rivers in North America, it's no surprise that they produce some of the biggest, record-setting fish. In the Sahtu there's fishing for Lake Trout, Arctic Grayling, Northern Pike, Whitefish, Loche and Inconnu, known locally as Coney. Expert guides offer angling adventures from communities, or at fly-in fishing lodges. The main fishing action in the Sahtu is at Great Bear Lake, renowned for record breaking Lake Trout.



ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT

Operators

Great Bear Lake Lodge
1-800-665-0240
Remote fishing lodge

Grey Goose Lodge
867-589-5500 Ext. 3099
Trips on Great Bear Lake

Norman Wells Land Corporation
867-587-2455

North-Wright Airways
867-587-2288 Ext.1009
Day trips to Great Bear, Turton or Kelly lakes

Plummer's Arctic Lodges
1-800-665-0240
Famed remote lodge on Great Bear Lake

Sahtu Adventures
867-447-3619
Fishing packages on Great Bear, and lakes near Norman Wells

BRAD HIGHFIELD



WILDLIFE

FISH

School is in session for the world class fish you will find in the Sahtu. Lake Trout, Arctic Grayling, Northern Pike, Whitefish, Loche and Inconnu, known locally as Coney, can all be caught with your rod or fish net in the beautiful lakes and rivers of the Sahtu Region. The abundance and variety of fish found in the region is a testament to the pristine quality of the water in which these creatures navigate.



LAKE TROUT



NORTHERN PIKE



BURBOT



INCONNU



ARCTIC CHAR



DOLLY VARDEN



WALLEYE



ARCTIC GRAYLING

Lake Trout stalk the pure, cold depths of our famous lakes, growing to outlandish sizes.

Northern Pike ("jack" or "jackfish" locally) can be found prowling warm marshes and reedy backwaters.

Burbot (or "loche"), the world's only freshwater cod, come out at night to feed. You can also find them on Bullock's Bistro's menu as "Great Slave Cod."

Inconnu (also called "coney") and Whitefish are relatives and coveted lake species; the former is a good fish to smoke, the latter is ideal for frying up.

Arctic Char, the world's northernmost freshwater species, are meaty, mouth-watering fish that migrate into lakes in summer or fall to spawn.

Bull Trout and **Dolly Varden** abound in alpine streams and are a fly-fisher's dreams.

Walleye ("pickerel") and **Arctic Grayling** splash in many of our rivers and creeks. Both have pronounced dorsal fins: the Walleye's is spiky, while the Arctic Grayling's fans out.

And don't look now, but more **Pink Salmon** are being found swimming up the Mackenzie River each summer—warming waters may be enticing the new arrivals.



JONATHAN GILLINGHAM

MAMMALS

Nature and wildlife enthusiasts the world over flock to the Sahtu Region to catch glimpses of moose, caribou, muskox, mountain goats, grizzly bears, Dall's sheep and a range of furry critters, from lynx, foxes, wolves and wolverine to ermine, muskrat and Snowshoe hares.

BIRDS

One of North America's major flyways cuts through the Sahtu region. Over 90 percent of the bird species in the Sahtu are migratory, and in all 41 families and over 200 species of birds spend time here. The most common migratory birds passing through or stopping in the region are snow geese, Canada geese, whistling swans, many species of ducks, loons, gulls and occasionally sandhill cranes. Raptors including bald and golden eagles, ospreys, rough legged hawks, gyrfalcons and peregrine falcons may also be observed.

Wildlife Viewing Operators

Artic Red River Outfitters
867-633-4934

Dechenla Lodge
867-667-2639

Sahtu Adventures
867-447-3619

Canol Outfitters (GP)
867-444-4868

Gana River Outfitters
403-357-8414

Keele River Outfitters Ltd.
403-563-8873

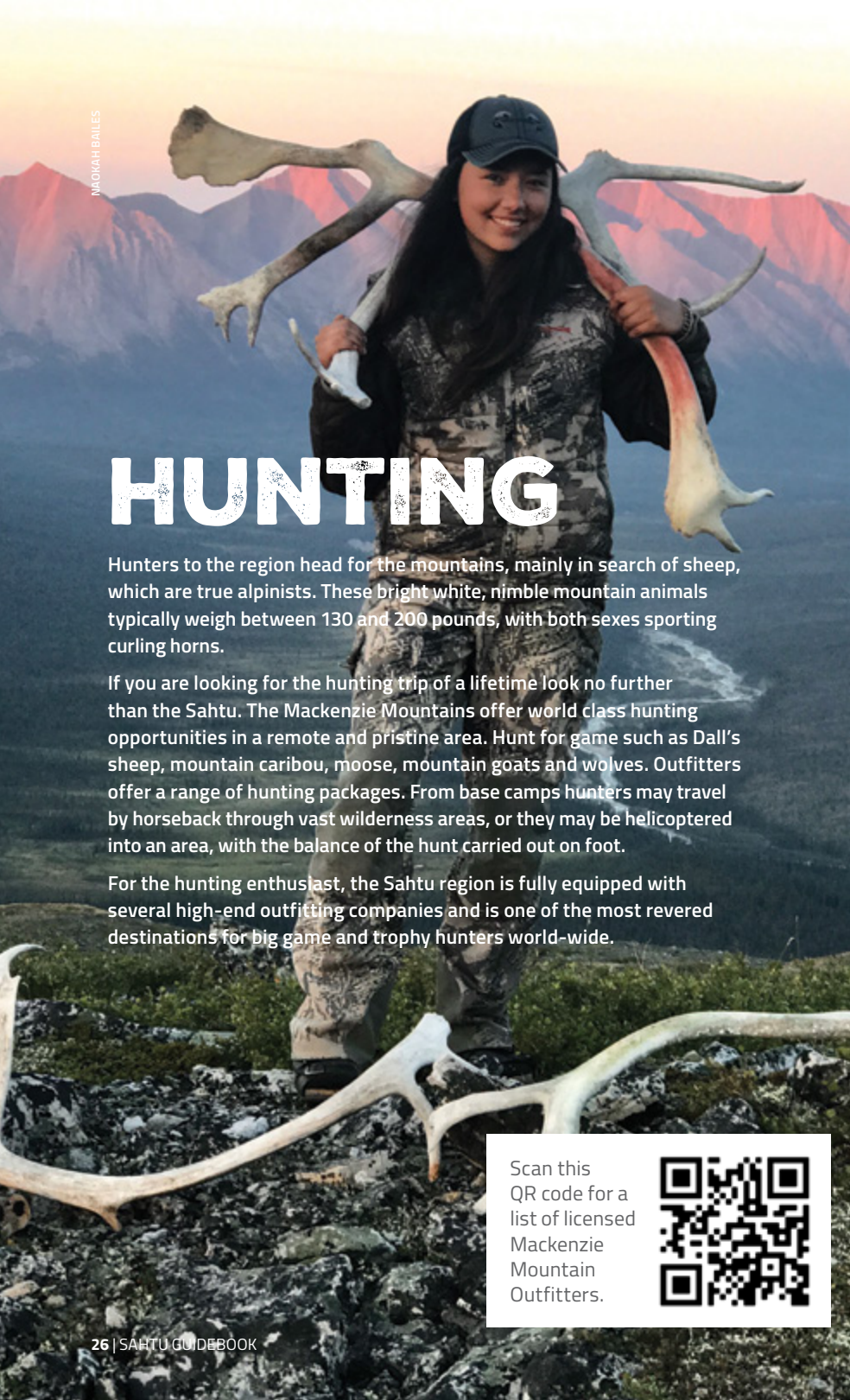
Mackenzie Mountain Outfitters
250-719-8340

Mountain River Outfitters
867-335-3596

Norman Wells Land Corporation
867-587-2455

NWT Outfitters
250-846-5309

Raven's Throat Outfitting ULC
867-332-7286



NAOKAH BAILES

HUNTING

Hunters to the region head for the mountains, mainly in search of sheep, which are true alpinists. These bright white, nimble mountain animals typically weigh between 130 and 200 pounds, with both sexes sporting curling horns.

If you are looking for the hunting trip of a lifetime look no further than the Sahtu. The Mackenzie Mountains offer world class hunting opportunities in a remote and pristine area. Hunt for game such as Dall's sheep, mountain caribou, moose, mountain goats and wolves. Outfitters offer a range of hunting packages. From base camps hunters may travel by horseback through vast wilderness areas, or they may be helicoptered into an area, with the balance of the hunt carried out on foot.

For the hunting enthusiast, the Sahtu region is fully equipped with several high-end outfitting companies and is one of the most revered destinations for big game and trophy hunters world-wide.

Scan this QR code for a list of licensed Mackenzie Mountain Outfitters.







Moose have always been highly valued in the Sahtu. Historically, Dene relied heavily on them for survival. With a single animal yielding as much as 300 kg of meat, it continues to be a staple food. The hides are usually home-tanned and used extensively for making moccasins.

Mountain Caribou have always been a part of Dene life. Woodland caribou that live in the Mackenzie Mountains are known as "mountain caribou" but most people in the Sahtu know their local caribou by their herd names such as Bluenose East and Bluenose West.

Dall Sheep have excellent eyesight and a well-developed sense of smell. Agile and graceful, they are very sensitive to human activity on their range. Sustainability for the future has always been and continues to be part of hunting in the Sahtu.

Wolves fall into two different groups in the Northwest Territories, based on behaviour and distribution. Wolves that live below the treeline or in the mountains are commonly known as timber wolves. Wolf coat colour varies from pure white to black, with accompanying shades of cream and brown. The most common colour is grey.

Black bears and **grizzly bears** can both be found in the Sahtu region. Black bears are typically found in forested areas and around river valleys, while many grizzly bears are found closer to the Mackenzie mountains where they winter.

Muskoxen are more commonly found on the Arctic islands of the Northwest Territories, as well as in the area north of Great Bear Lake up to the Arctic coast. Recently, they have increased in numbers and expanded their range into the Franklin Range.











J. F. BERGERON/NWTT

LOCAL FLORA

The entire Sahtu region is within the treeline, so boasts a range of trees, which tend to get smaller the further north you go. The most common trees found in the region are black spruce, white spruce, birch, aspen and poplar. There are also thickets of willow and alder found mainly along river banks.

Plant life flourishes through the short summer months with an abundance of Labrador tea and low bush cranberries, goose berries and blueberries.

During late spring and early summer the landscape is a swirl of pinks, yellows and purples as flowering plants open to the sun. Wild roses, fireweed, mountain avens, and Arctic lupine are just some of the many wildflowers colouring the Sahtu.

Pale green, black and bright orange lichens and mosses add to the palette, especially in rocky areas.

For details of vegetation in the mountain area, see *A guide to the Canol Heritage Trail and Doi T'oh Territorial Park Reserve*. Copies of the book may be purchased at the Norman Wells Historical Centre.

NICKY RICHARDS



FOSSILS

You can find fossils on the banks of the Mackenzie River near Norman Wells, beside the roads in town or in the hills, valley and canyons around town. Behind the town, a ridge of Devonian limestone and shale hosts a wide variety of fossils – from stromataporoids to corrals, sponges and shells. The area around Norman Wells also attracts rockhounds looking for pyrite nodules as well as quartz and calcite crystals.

WATERFALLS

The infinite lakes and rivers that connect the entirety of the Northwest Territories create some truly spectacular natural landscapes. Nowhere is that more evident than in the face of a waterfall in the Sahtu. Whether you marvel at the thunderous torrent or enjoy the refreshing misty spray, these waterfalls capture the natural beauty and variety of the Sahtu Region.



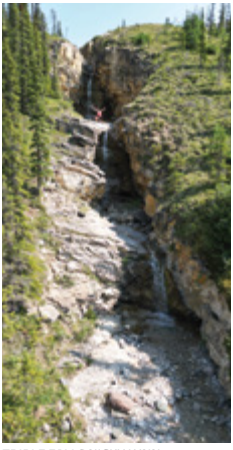
PENCIL FALLS ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT



CARCAJOU FALLS NICKY LYNN RICHARDS/NWTT

CARCAJOU FALLS, NORMAN WELLS

Arguably the most iconic waterfall in the Sahtu, you can see this colossal fall on a detour off the CANOL trail or hop on a helicopter for a flightseeing tour from Normal Wells.



TRIPLE FALLS NICKY LYNN RICHARDS/NWTT

TRIPLE FALLS, NORMAN WELLS

Head through Fossil Canyon on a hike along Hamar Trail and enjoy the scenery before arriving at these incredible falls. It's a 3-hour hike but well worth the trek. Flightseeing tours can also take you there by helicopter.

PENCIL FALLS, MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS

These falls are only accessible by air, but once you arrive you'll have full liberty to immerse yourself in the natural beauty of the Sahtu Region.

ANGEL FALLS, NORMAN WELLS

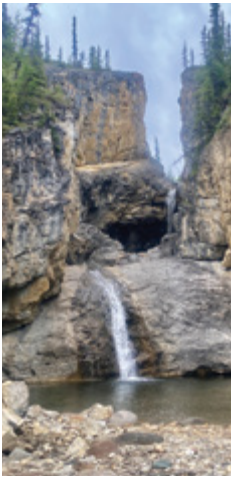
Not far from the community itself, these falls are perfect for a day trip. Canoe, kayak, or paddle board across Jackfish Lake and take the last 10 minutes on foot up the trail. When you arrive, relax and enjoy the sounds of the North all around you.

BOSWORTH FALLS, NORMAN WELLS

Another local attraction to Norman Wells. You'll work up a sweat on this 2.5 hour hike just in time to cool off in the spectacular spray of Bosworth Creek as it cascades over the rocks.

CASH FALLS, MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS

Another waterfall out in the mountains, take a helicopter tour or make the stop along the CANOL trail if you're hiking it. Out on the land, you can't help but appreciate the timeless and enduring beauty of both the waterfall and the mountains surrounding you.



BOSWORTH FALLS WILLIAM PRATT/ NWTT

GETTING HERE

AIR

Air service provides the main access to the Sahtu. There is jet service from Edmonton, Yellowknife and Inuvik to Norman Wells, the administrative centre of the region. From Yellowknife and Norman Wells, a regional airline provides connecting service to all Sahtu communities, and also offers flights to Yellowknife. In addition to scheduled service, fixed wing and helicopter charter services are also available from Norman Wells.

All Sahtu communities are serviced by an air transportation network that includes well maintained runways, small air terminal buildings, and almost daily service into and out of each Sahtu community. Only Norman Wells has a paved runway, and it is also the only runway long enough to accommodate larger jets.

ROADS

A winter road currently connects the Sahtu to the rest of the NWT for about three months each year. This road from Wrigley (the end of the Mackenzie Highway) is open from late Dec/early January to late March/ early April. There are no services along this road, which is used mainly to transport freight to Sahtu communities.

The first stage of an all-weather road to Sahtu communities is in development, with planning underway for a new bridge across the Great Bear River near Tulít'a. The first 14km of an all-weather road has been constructed starting in Norman Wells to Canyon Creek, it's called Canyon Creek Access Road. An additional 6km of all weather road extends the Canyon Creek access road to Christina Creek.



SHERRY OTT/NWTT



NORMAN WELLS NICKY LYNN RICHARDS/NWTT

From mid June to mid October, high power tug boats launch from Hay River and Fort Simpson on their way to the Sahtu, pushing specially designed flat bottom barges up and down the Mackenzie River, delivering boats, cars, snowmobiles, heavy equipment, fuel oils, building supplies, bulk foods and other goods.

Contact local operators for passenger vessel service or tours of the river.


ROUTES
Unpaved Surface
Winter Access Only
Canol Hiking Route
NORTHERN LIMIT OF TREES
MOKING HILLS
Paulatuk
La Ronciere Falls
Tuktut Nogait National Park
Anderson River
Hornaday River
Mackenzie River
Nagwcihoonjik
Horton Lake
Colville Lake
ARCTIC CIRCLE
BIG SPRUCE HILLS
World's Largest Drum Landmark
Fort Good Hope
Mission of Notre Dame De Bonne Espérance
Smith Arm
?ehdacho National Historic Site
Norman Wells
SA1
Old Fort Franklin & Déline Fishery
Keith Arm
Saoyú National Historic Site
Great Bear River
Déline
Bear Rock
Tulita
Canol Heritage Trail
Carcajou Falls
PROPOSED TERRITORIAL PARK
BACKBONE
MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS
Natla River
Keele River
FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS
CANYON RANGES
Blackwater Lake
Keller Lake
Wrigley
Fish Lake
MACKENZIE HIGHWAY
CAMSELL RANGE
Root River
North Nahanni
Nahanni River
Nahanni Plateau
Broken Skull River
South
RANGES
Keele River
Reid River
Mountain River
Mackenzie River
Nahanni National Park Reserve
SUNBLO

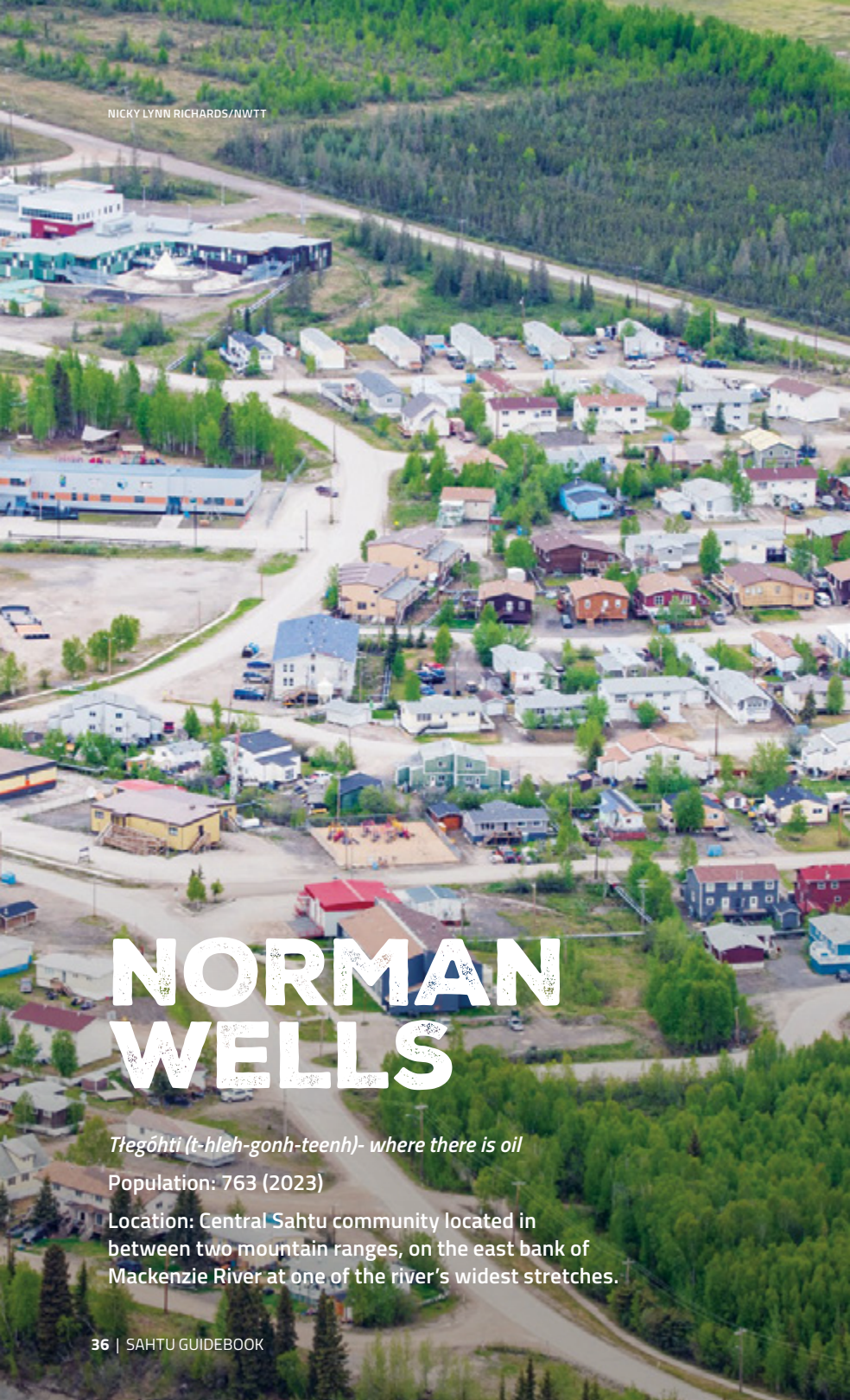
SAHTU MAP

Sahtu (bear waters) is the Slavey Dene name for Great Bear Lake, which lies at the heart of this region. Located in the middle of the Northwest Territories, the Sahtu stretches to Yukon along its mountainous western border, and to the treeless tundra of Nunavut to the east.









NICKY LYNN RICHARDS/NWTT

NORMAN WELLS

Tłegǫhtì (t-hleh-gonh-teenh)- where there is oil

Population: 763 (2023)

Location: Central Sahtu community located in between two mountain ranges, on the east bank of Mackenzie River at one of the river's widest stretches.

HISTORY

The town of Norman Wells lies on the scenic Mackenzie River with its back to the Franklin mountains. With approximately 763 residents Norman Wells is the largest Sahtu community and the government, industrial and transportation hub of the Mackenzie heartland. The community stretches several km along the Mackenzie River and has been a petroleum producing centre for a century. The discovery well at Norman Wells was drilled in 1919 by Ted Link.

A small refinery was built in the 1920s. To meet the demand of new mines opening in the NWT, a new refinery was constructed in 1937. To feed the needs of the Second World War, the field was expanded greatly in 1939, but little of the oil ever flowed west through the Canol pipeline which was completed in 1944.

After years of supplying mainly northern markets, Norman Wells oil started flowing to southern markets in the mid 1980's with the completion of the Norman Wells to Zama pipeline. Today, Norman Wells is unequalled in the NWT as a starting point for mountain wilderness adventure.

NORMAN WELLS NICKY LYNN RICHARDS/NWTT



NORMAN WELLS

Legend

1. Sahtu Got'ine Regional Health Centre and Long Term Care Facility
2. SRP Petroleum
3. Ball Diamond
4. Mackenzie Mountain School (K-12)/Tennis & Basketball court
5. Skate Park
6. Community Hall
7. Curling Rink
8. Arena
9. Swimming Pool (Seasonal)
10. Town Hall
11. Norman Wells Land Corporation/Norman Wells Claimant Corporation/Doi T'oh Territorial Park Corp./ Norman Wells Renewable Resources Council
12. Edward G. Hodgson Building (GNWT Departments)
13. Yamouri Inn/Big Bar with ATM/CIBC with ATM/Hair Salon
14. Ramparts (Grocery Store/ ATM)/Cannabis Store
15. Northern (Grocery Store/ATM)
16. Liquor Store
17. Dock
18. RCMP
19. Sahtu Business Development Centre
20. Fire Hall
21. Church
22. Norman Wells Historical Society (Museum/Visitor Information Centre)
23. Royal Canadian Legion with ATM/Golf Course
24. Heritage Hotel-Ventures Dining Lounge/GNWT-MACA and Infrastructure
25. GNWT-ECC, Justice and Lands
26. GNWT-ECC




27. Bottle Depot
28. Sahtu Building Supplies (Hardware Store)
29. North-Wright Airways
30. Sahtu Dene Inn
31. Gas Station
32. Sahtu Gardens
33. Canadian North Cargo
34. Airport
35. Canadian Helicopters
36. Sahtu Helicopters
37. Lookout
38. Coast Guard Dock/Town Boat Launch
39. Coast Guard Yard
40. Weigh scale
41. Royal Mackenzie Inn (Camp/Hotel)
P Playground
B Boat Launch
Walking Trails
FORT GOOD HOPE/ COLVILLE LAKE/ WINTER ROAD ACCESS
TULITA, YELLOWKNIFE, ALBERTA WINTER ROAD ACCESS
TO: HODGSON LAKE (JACKFISH LAKE/ SKI CABIN/ THE DUMP)
INDUSTRIAL YARD
TO: MACKINNON TERRITORIAL PARK/DOT LAKE/ FLOAT PLANE BASE/AVIATION MUSEUM
JUNKERS ROAD
MACKENZIE DRIVE
MACKENZIE DRIVE
MACKENZIE RIVER

5 THINGS TO DO IN NORMAN WELLS

1 FOSSIL HUNTING. Head to Fossil Canyon or explore the river shoreline and collect a few mementos deposited there long before people arrived in the Sahtu.

2 HISTORY. Visit the Norman Wells Historical Centre to learn more about the region's early history, the Canol project and the culture of the people who live here. Don't miss the Aviation Museum at DOT Lake to learn about the pioneering pilots and aircraft that opened the North.

3 GOLFING. Play a round of golf on the town's 4-hole course, blessed with grassy fairways and greens. Golf clubs and balls can be rented at the Legion. You can also try Frisbee Golf at MacKinnon Territorial Park.

4 WILDERNESS ADVENTURE. Contact a local outfitter who can take you out for half or full-day experiences.

ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT



5 HIT THE TRAILS. For short or long hikes—or an exhilarating bike ride—head out to one of the many trails near Jackfish Lake.

ACCOMMODATIONS/ DINING/LOUNGES

Three hotels can accommodate up to 130 people in 65 private rooms. All hotels provide dining services. Some hotels offer suites with kitchen facilities. A seasonal B&B operates at DOT lake.

In addition to lounges in some hotels, food and alcohol can be purchased at the Royal Canadian Legion in Norman Wells.

For more information, please refer to page 72.

RENTALS

Vehicles, canoes and outdoor equipment rentals available.

SHOPPING

Groceries and general supplies are available at two stores.

Liquor store with limited hours.

WHERE TO BUY ART

Norman Wells Historical Society Centre
Tel: 867-587-2415

VISITOR SERVICES

Visitor information is available at the Norman Wells Historical Society Centre. The Centre can also direct you to local tourism operators offering a range of outdoor experiences.

CONFERENCE FACILITIES

There is a range of facilities to suit different groups. Please contact 867-587-7171 ext. 1002 or email tourism_sahtu@gov.nt.ca.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Airport
- Health centre
- RCMP
- School K-12
- Community hall
- Indoor arena and curling club
- Fitness centre
- Seasonal Pool
- Ski trails, tennis



ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT

court, basketball court, golf gourse, Frisbee golf course, baseball diamond, gun range, equipment rentals

BANK

One full service bank and various ATMs.

TRANSPORTATION

Jet service 4 days a week from Edmonton, Yellowknife or Inuvik.

Scheduled service to all other Sahtu communities from Norman Wells.



HANS PFAFF/NWTT



HANS PFAFF/NWTT

NORMAN WELLS BUSINESSES

Canadian Helicopters
867-587-2136

Canoe North Adventures
519-941-6654

Canol Outfitters GP Ltd.
867-444-4868

Kummer's Recycling & Rentals
867-446-1525

Northern Cartrols Ltd.
867-587-5000

Norman Wells Historical Society
867-587-2415

North-Wright Airways Ltd.
867-587-228 8

Rampart Rentals Ltd.
867-587-2822

Sahtu Adventures
867-447-3619

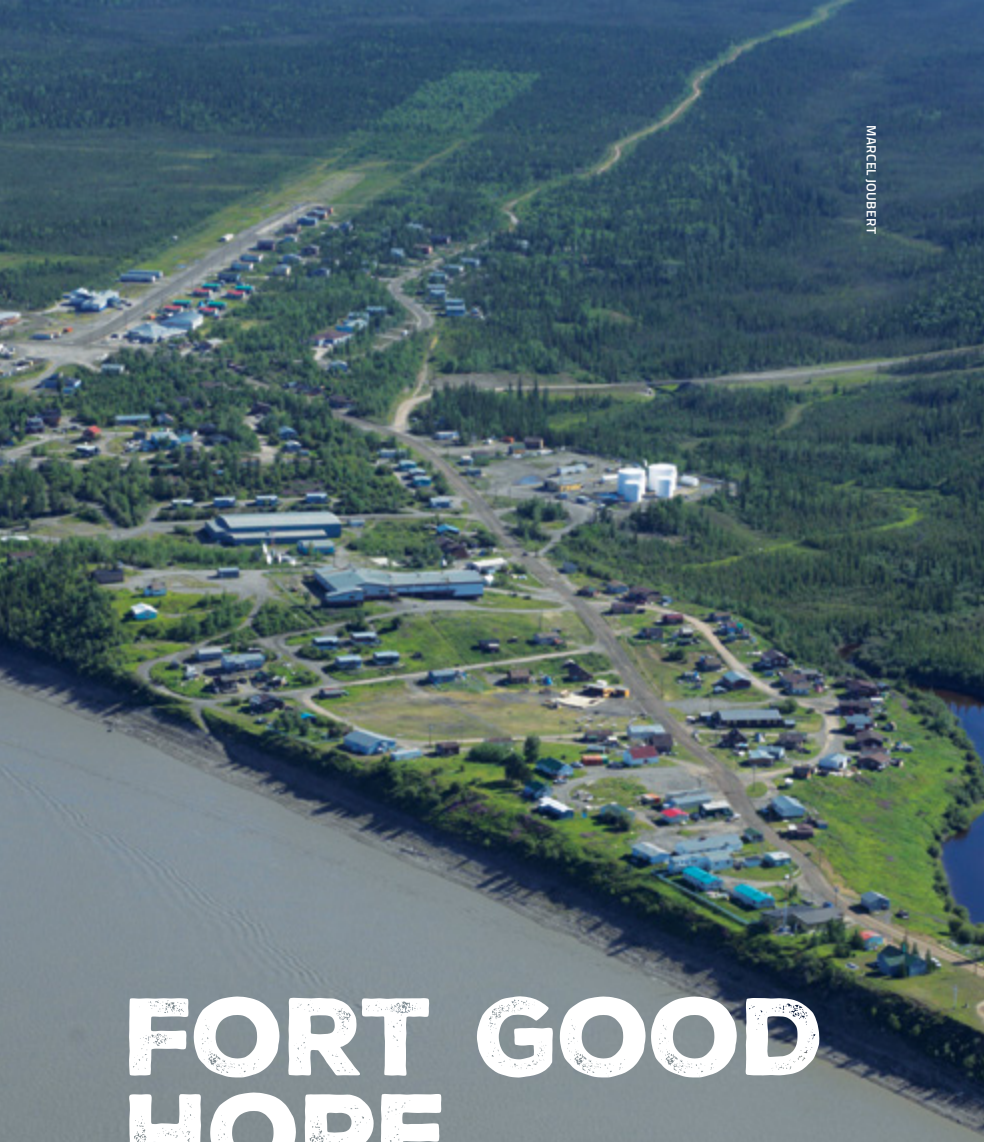
Sahtu Helicopters Partnership
867-587-2827

Town of Norman Wells
867-587-3700

Yamouri Inn
867-587-2744

CONNOR FURNEAUX/NWTT





MARCEL JOUBERT

FORT GOOD HOPE

Rádeyı̨lı̨kóé (rah-day-inh-linh-kway) - where the rapids are

Population: 591 (2023)

Location: Located on a rolling, forested peninsula between Jackfish Creek and the east bank of the Mackenzie River, 27 km (17 mi) south of the Arctic Circle and 3 km (1.8 mi) from the Ramparts on the Mackenzie River. It is in the homeland of the North Slavey Dene.

HISTORY

Fort Good Hope was the oldest fur trading post in the lower Mackenzie Valley, established by the Northwest Company in 1805. After the amalgamation of the Northwest Company and the Hudson's Bay Company the post was relocated several times, but by 1839 was back at its original site. The presence of a trading post stimulated an extensive trade network, extending north to Herschel Island and west to Russian Alaska.

In 1859 Father Grolier built a Roman Catholic mission, Our Lady of Good Hope, near Fort Good Hope and six years later, Father Emile Petitot arrived. In 1878 he completed the unusual religious murals which grace the entire interior of the church. He used paints made from local fish oils. Today the Church is recognized as a National Historic site.

The community's Indigenous name, Rádeyįlįkóé, means where the rapids are, referring to the immense limestone cliffs that guard the rapids as they flow through the Ramparts that squeeze the Mackenzie River into a whitewater frenzy.

Work continues on the proposed Ramparts River and Wetlands National Wildlife Area (Ts'udé Nilįné Tuyeta) near Fort Good Hope. Twenty-four species of fish, 174 bird species and 43 mammal species have been recorded in the area. It also supports species-at-risk, is a key migratory bird terrestrial habitat site, provides the water sources for three important drainages in the Sahtu region - the Hume, Ramparts and Ontaratue Rivers. If designated National Wildlife Area status, it will be the first such designation in the Northwest Territories.

GEORGE FISCHER/NWTT



FORT GOOD HOPE

Legend

1. McNeely Garden's
2. Municipal Shop Area
3. TeeJay's B&B
4. School
5. FGH Métis Land Corp
6. Arctic Circle Enterprises
7. K'asho Got'ine Daycare
8. K'asho Got'ine Charter Community Band Office
9. Co-op/ATM
10. Yamoga Land Corporation/ Renewable Resources Council
11. Northern Store/ATM
12. Little Dipper B&B
13. Aurora College
14. Gas Station
15. Dwayne's Confectionary
16. Jackson's B&B
17. Wellness Centre/K'asho Got'ine Self Government Negotiation Secretariat
18. Youth Centre
19. RCMP
20. Our Lady of Good Hope Church
21. Arena (seasonal)
22. RC Mission House
23. Ne'Rahten Developments Ltd/K'asho Got'ine Housing Society
24. Riverbend Motel

P Playground

B Boat Launch

Walking Trails




FORT GOOD HOPE
1
TO: DUMP/PICNIC AREA/
RABBITSKIN RIVER/
CULTURE CAMP
BACK TRAIL TO
RABBITSKIN RIVER
2
WATER
RESERVOIR
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4
P
5
6
10
11
15
7
8
9
WINTER
ROAD
ACCESS
23
AIRPORT/CAMPING

5 THINGS TO DO IN FORT GOOD HOPE

1 DRIVE TO VIEW THE ARCTIC CIRCLE DRUM! Stop off and see the territory's newest roadside attraction at the geographical edge of the Arctic Circle. Just 37 kilometres outside of Fort Good Hope, on the winter road to Colville Lake, towers what's possibly the world's largest drum. Measuring 19 feet high and 19 feet across, the giant drum is a signpost for travellers; located at the only place in the Northwest Territories where the Arctic Circle can be reached via road

2 HIT THE WATER DURING HIGH WATER SEASON. Boat to fossil lake, view waterfalls and scenery. Get out on the big river and head over to the Ramparts, the closest thing to whitewater on the Mackenzie River.

3 LOCAL EVENTS. Pop by the community hall on Saturday afternoon to participate in sewing and craft activities from autumn until spring. In summer, enjoy a cookout at the recreation field.

4 PLAY GAMES. Head over to the hall on Friday nights for a fun-filled evening of Texas Hold 'Em poker and mini bingo.

5 THE CHURCH. Visit the ornate Our Lady of Good Hope Church, designed and built by Oblate missionaries in the 1860s. The church was designated a National Historic Site in 1977 and is one of the oldest surviving buildings of its type.

FORT GOOD HOPE ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT



ACCOMMODATION/ DINING

- Little Dipper B&B – four rooms in a comfortable house. Meals available when needed.
- Jackson's B&B - three rooms.
- Arctic Circle Enterprises – Includes all amenities
- Tee Jays B&B 867-598-2252
- River Bend Motel Inc. 867-688-9884

For more information, please refer to page 72.

SHOPPING

- Northern Store – general merchandise and Post Office
- Co-op – general merchandise
- Dwayne's Confectionery
- McNeely Gardens

WHERE TO BUY ART

Kasho Got'ine Charter Community office
867-598-2231

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- School – K-12
- Health centre
- RCMP
- Community arena, community garden, baseball diamond, gathering area
- Community Hall

BANKING

There is no bank in the community, but there are ATMs at the Northern store and at the Co-op.

TRANSPORTATION

The only all season access is by air at the Fort Good Hope airport. Regularly scheduled flights connect Fort Good Hope with Colville Lake, Yellowknife and Norman Wells. Winter access is possible via a winter road from Wrigley. The community can be accessed by water (Mackenzie River) during the summer.

FORT GOOD HOPE BUSINESSES

Co-op
867-598-2543

Dwayne's Confectionery

Fort Good Hope Metis Land Corporation
867-598-2105

Jackson's Bed and Breakfast
867-598-2804

McNeely Gardens
867-598-2619

Northern Store
867-598-2291

River Bend Motel Inc.
867-688-9884

Yamoga Land Corporation
867-598-2519

COLVILLE LAKE

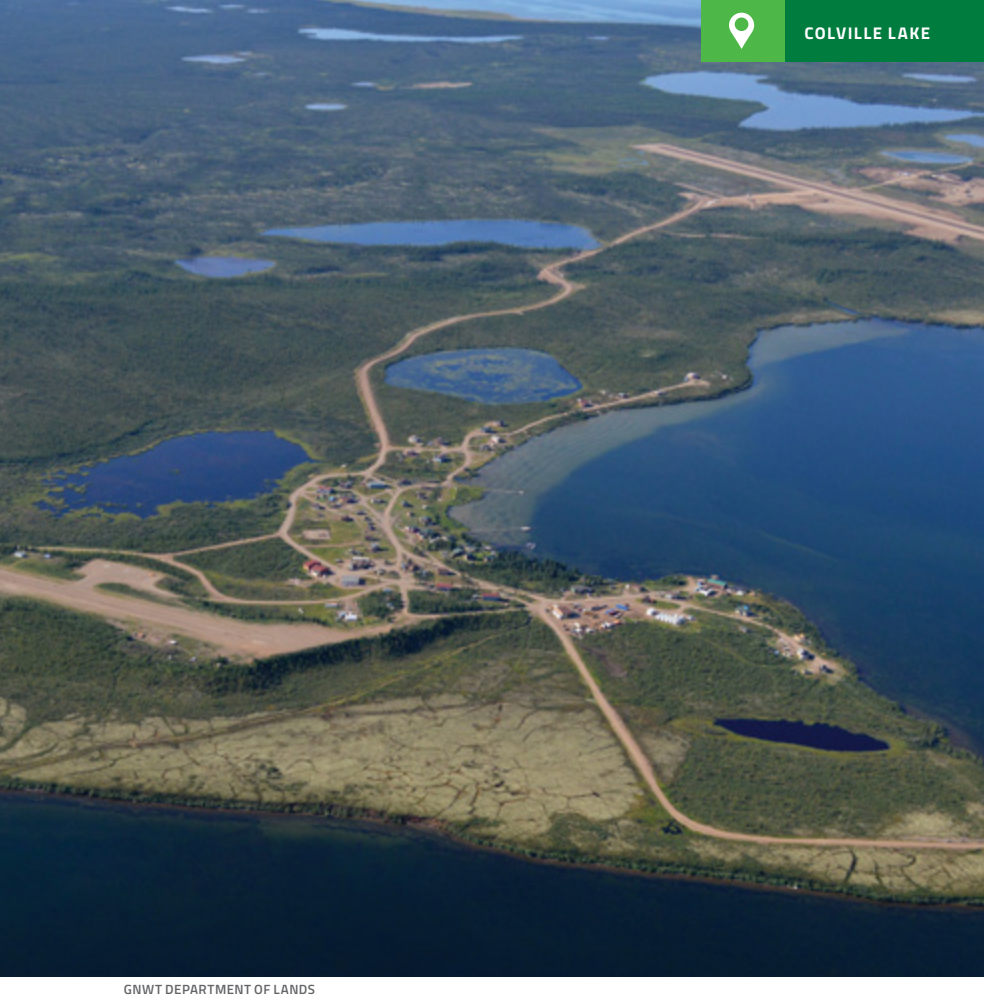
NICKY RICHARDS



K'áhbamjtúé (k-ah-ba-meenh-tway) - ptarmigan net place

Population: 154 (2023)

Location: The small, quaint community of Colville Lake is located about 80 km (50 mi) north of the Arctic Circle on the southeast shore of one of the Northwest Territories' larger lakes. It is considered one of the most traditional communities in the NWT.

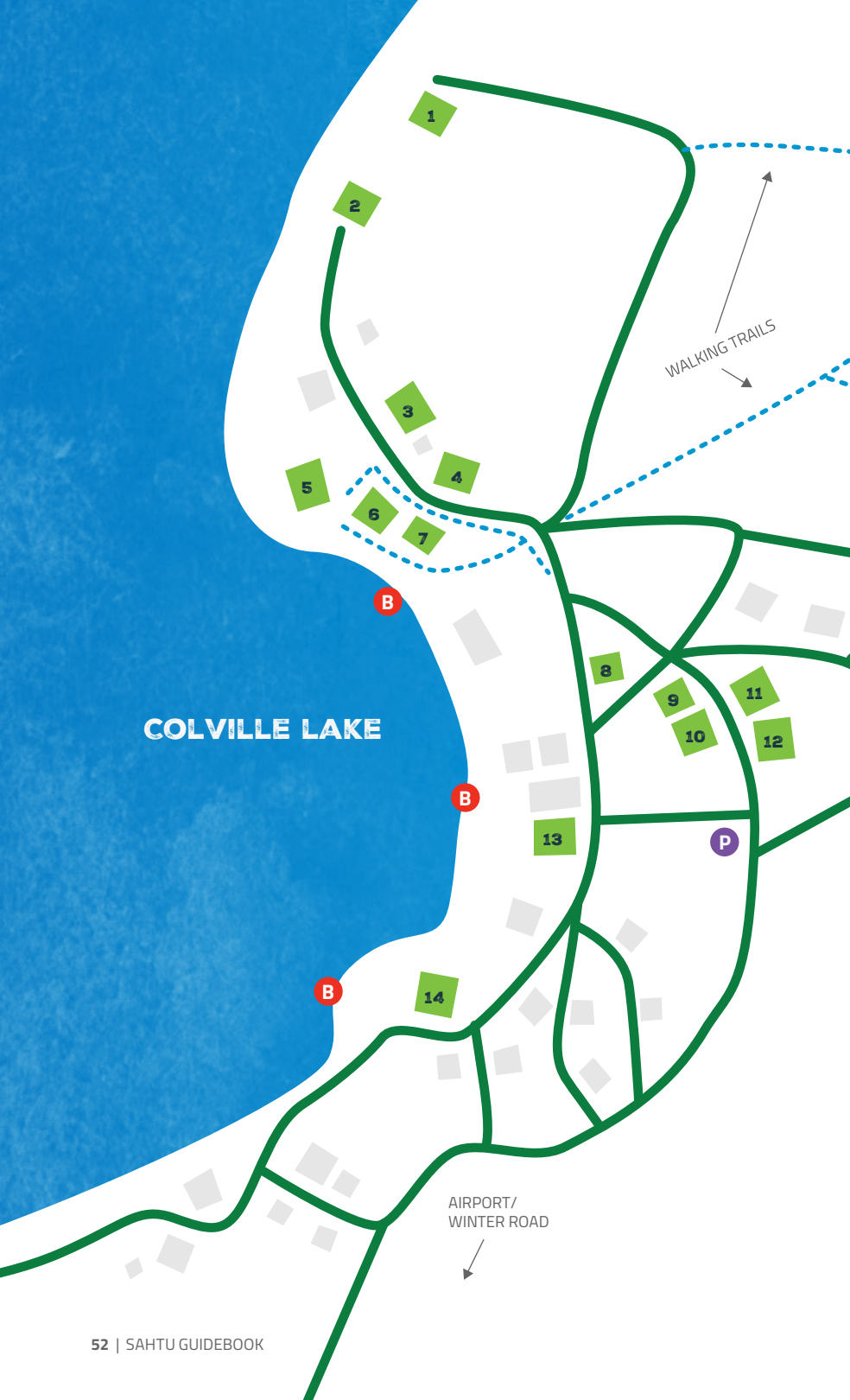


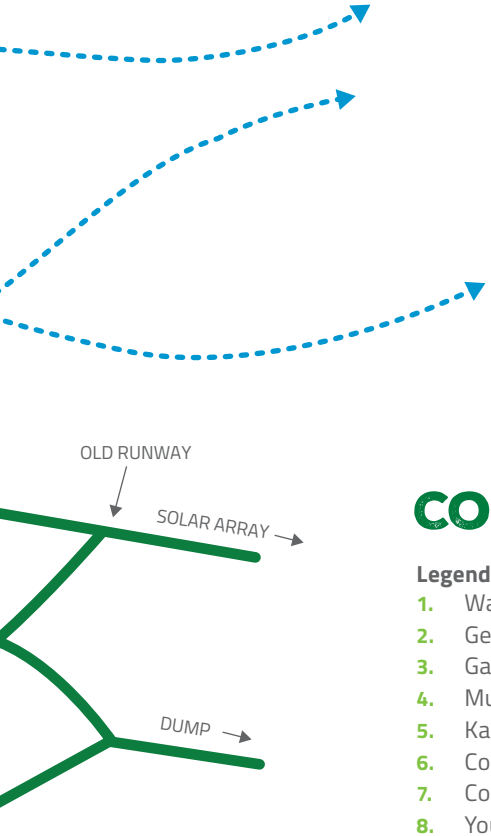
GNWT DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

HISTORY

In the early 60s there was a movement to revitalize the traditional trapping economy and a number of families along with Oblate Missionary Bern Will Brown travelled from Fort Good Hope to establish a permanent community on the south shore of Colville Lake. Most of the community was constructed using local logs.

More recently, in 2016, the community made history by becoming the first community in the North to replace its diesel generator with a combination of diesel, batteries and a solar array capable of generating 160 kilowatts per hour. Currently the community only uses diesel as back up in winter and uses solar to power the band office and homes.


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P
COLVILLE LAKE
WALKING TRAILS
AIRPORT/
WINTER ROAD



COLVILLE LAKE

Legend

1. Water Intake
2. Gene & Son's Hardware
3. Gas Station
4. Municipal Garage
5. Kapami Co-op (Grocery Store/ATM)
6. Colville Lake Lodge
7. Colville Lake Church/Museum
8. Youth Centre
9. Traditional Arbour/Gathering Area
10. Colville Lake Bed & Breakfast
11. Behdzi Ahda First Nation Band Office
12. Health Centre/School Gym
13. School
14. Community Garden

P Playground

B Boat Launch

Walking Trails

5 THINGS TO DO IN COLVILLE LAKE

1 **HISTORY.** Contact the local band office to request a tour of the town's distinctive log church (Our Lady of the Snow) and the museum, which displays historical artifacts and local art from Bern Will Brown.

2 **EDUCATIONAL TOUR.** Drop in to visit the community's one-room K-12 school.

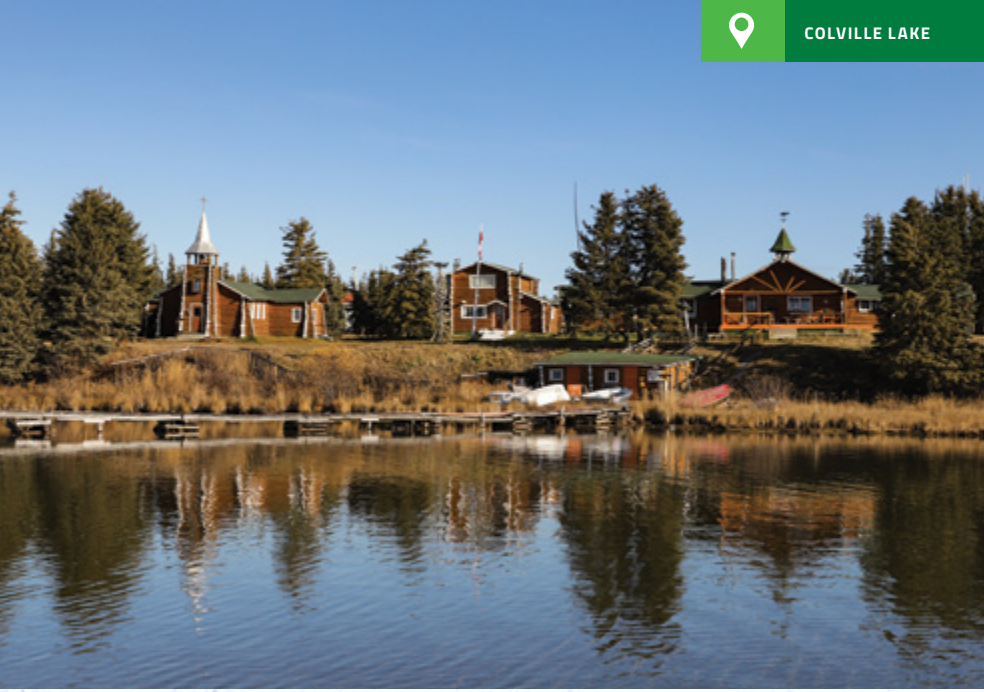
3 **HYBRID ENERGY.** Check out the unique solar-diesel-battery hybrid system that powers the community.

4 **MEET AND GREET.** Colville Lake is a friendly community where everybody knows each other. Explore the town and meet its friendly people.

NICKY RICHARDS



5 **OUTDOOR ADVENTURE.** Visitors can troll for Lake Trout, Grayling and Northern Pike in Colville Lake's adjacent, namesake lake.



NICKY RICHARDS

ACCOMMODATION/ DINING

- Colville Lake B&B has seven units available. Includes internet, vehicle rental/shuttle service, and laundry facilities.

For more information, please refer to page 72.

SHOPPING

- Small co-op store. Also houses the Post Office

WHERE TO BUY ART

- Bern Will Brown Museum
- Behdzi Alhda First Nation Band Office Tel: 867-709-2200

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- School K-12
- Health Centre
- Community garden, community gym, gathering area

BANKING

There is no bank in the community, but there is an ATM at the Co-op.

TRANSPORTATION

- By air from Norman Wells, or in winter, by ice-road from Fort Good Hope.

COLVILLE LAKE BUSINESSES

Ayoni Keh Land Corporation
867-709-2700

Colville Lake B&B
867-709-2200

Gene Oudzi B&B
867-709-2045

DÉLĮNĘ

(FORMERLY FORT FRANKLIN)

(day-linh-nay) - where the water flows

Population: 666 (2023)

Location: On the north shore of the Keith Arm of Great Bear Lake, about 10 km from the headwaters of the Great Bear River.



NICKY RICHARDS

HISTORY

Délįnę is a Dene community at the southernmost limit of the North Slavey's ancient territory. It was once named Fort Franklin, after Sir John Franklin who overwintered there in 1825-27 during his second expedition. The site was originally a Northwest Company trading post and after it closed the Hudson's Bay Company re-opened it to supply the Franklin expedition. With the discovery of pitchblende at Port Radium and oil at Norman Wells in the 1920s, Great Bear Lake and River became important commercial transportation routes. The community assumed more permanence around 1949 with the establishment of the teepee-shaped Catholic mission and a federal day school. The re-opening of a Hudson's Bay post attracted more Dene residents to the community. In 2016, Délįnę became the NWT's first Indigenous community to achieve self-government. It is now run by the Délįnę Got'ine Government.

MARK PATRICK/GNWT ITI




TO: BOAT LAUNCH, LITTLE LAKE, WALKING TRAILS, CEMETERY, GAZEBOS AND SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT
TO: GAS STATION, AIRPORT, DUMP
OLD AIRSTRIP
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GREAT BEAR LAKE
ICE ROAD/WINTER ROAD ACCESS

DÉLĮNĘ

Legend

1. Grey Goose Lodge/Restaurant
2. Sir John Franklin Historical Site
3. Canteen
4. Dora Gully Health Centre
5. Gina's Craft Store
6. Northern Store/Post Office/ATM
7. RCMP
8. Traditional Knowledge Centre/ Parks Office
9. Arena/Hall
10. Délįnę Got'ine Government Office Building/GNWT Offices
11. ?ehtso Ayah School (K-12)
12. Délįnę Got'ine Government Main Office
13. Culture Centre
14. Co-op/ATM
15. Wellness Centre
16. St. Theresa of the Child of Jesus Catholic Church
17. Power Plant
18. Water Intake
19. Dock/Lake View/Good Fishing Spot
20. Ball Diamond
21. Prophet Ayah's House/Spiritual Grounds
22. Preschool

P Playground

Walking Trails



5 THINGS TO DO IN DÉLĮNĘ



1 FISHING. Try an all-inclusive fishing package on Great Bear Lake (April-May for ice fishing and June-August for boat fishing) and let an expert guide take you to the best spots to catch epic Lake Trout and iridescent Arctic Grayling.

HANS PFAFF/NWTT

2 CULTURAL EXPERIENCES. Experience total cultural immersion as you partake in everyday life in Délįnę. Walk the paths of Délįnę's ancestors, learning about the flora and fauna and traditional medicines. Sit with local artisans as they tan hides, sew moccasins with an array of intricate beadwork. Visit the new Traditional Knowledge Office, with cultural displays in the foyer, before checking out the rectory built in 1950.

3 HOCKEY HISTORY. Visit the site of the birthplace of hockey. The first documented game was said to have been played here by Sir John Franklin's men when they overwintered in the 1820s.

4 CANADA'S LARGEST NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE. Saoyú-?edacho occupies two peninsulas in Great Bear Lake that are of great cultural and spiritual significance to the Sahtu Got'ine people.

5 HISTORY. Learn about Prophet Ayah, known by Dene throughout the NWT, and his prophecies from the first three decades of the 20th century by visiting the small shrine set up in his memory. Then, follow in Franklin's footsteps by visiting the Délįnę fishery and Franklin's Fort Historic Site of Canada, where Sir John Franklin and his crew overwintered from 1825-1827.


PAT KANE/NWTT

ACCOMMODATION/ DINING

- Grey Goose Lodge - Twelve room lodge overlooking the shore of Great Bear Lake. As well as eight 1 & 2 bedroom cabins. On-site restaurant and gift shop.
- Délįnę B&B - Two bedrooms with home-style breakfasts

For more information, please refer to page 72.

SHOPPING

- Groceries and general merchandise are available at the Northern Store and Co-op. Both stores provide ATM access

WHERE TO BUY ART

- Grey Goose Lodge Tel: 867-589-5500 Ext. 3099

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Water Aerodrome offering float plane access with anchorage
- Health Centre
- RCMP
- School K-12, Ɂehtseo Ayha School
- Indoor arena, community garden, youth centre, baseball diamond
- Sit in dining at Grey Goose Lodge

BANK

There is no bank in the community, but there are ATMs at the Co-op, Northern Store and Grey Goose Lodge.

TRANSPORTATION

- Six days a week air service to and from Norman Wells and Yellowknife.
- Winter road connecting to Tulít'a and south to Highway 1 at Wrigley

DÉLĮNĘ BUSINESS LISTINGS

Arts and Crafts Confectionery
867-589-3514

Bernice B&B
867-589-3528

Carson's Canteen
867-589-4632

Délįnę B&B
867-589-4632

Délįnę Contracting
780-982-6342

Deline Got'ine Government
867-589-8100

Great Bear Co-op:
867-589-3361

Grey Goose Lodge
867-589-8100
Ext. 1011

MeckCon Services Ltd.
867-589-3119

Northern Store
867-589-3311

Snack Shack
867-589-3122

TechiƤq
867-589-8100
Ext. 1011

Asi Ts'enehshe Dahk'e
867-589-3374

Denewá Béré Eyıá Nezo
867-589-3374

Catering and Canteen
867-589-3528

LB Outfitting and Equipment Rental
867-589-4325



ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT

TULÍT'A

(FORMERLY FORT NORMAN)

(too-lee-tah) - where the waters meet

Population: 530 (2023)

Location: confluence of the Great Bear and Mackenzie Rivers across from the huge limestone outcroppings of Bear Rock.

HISTORY

Tulít'a started as a Northwest Company outpost in 1810 and was then taken over by the Hudson's Bay Company and was named Fort Norman. The name was changed to Tulít'a in 1996. Tulít'a is home to the Mountain Dene, who used to winter in the mountains and returned to the valley each spring, on raging rivers, in huge mooseskin boats. It is thought these boats came into use during the fur trade, to transport a bountiful fur harvest to the trading posts.

In the 1980s the residents of Tulít'a revived the traditional skill of making these boats which combine the design of the smaller Dene canoes and the shallow, broad and long York boats introduced into the area in the 19th century. The moose hide boat Tulít'a residents built in the 1980s is now housed in the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife.

A number of old log buildings dot the community, with the oldest and most notable being the Anglican Church.

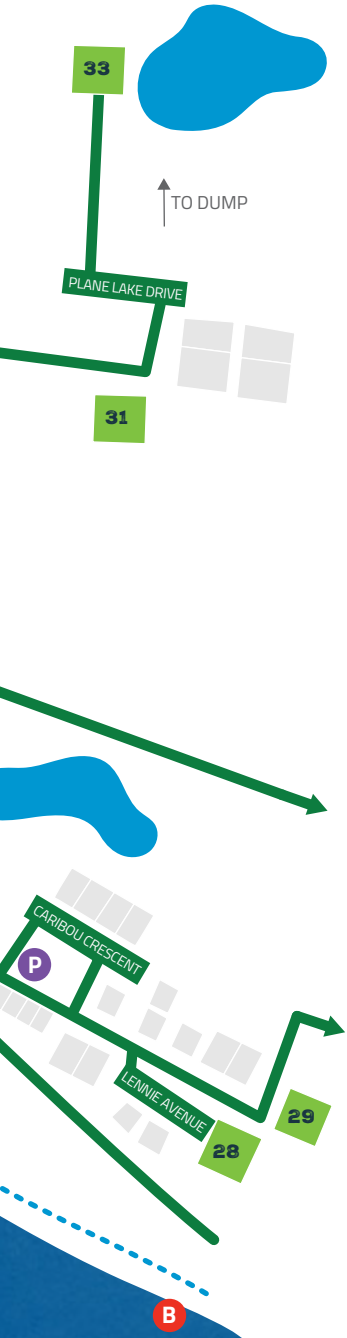
Drumming and dancing are strong parts of the Dene culture and the Tulít'a Dene Drummers are a vibrant and passionate group. In 2008 they recorded an album that highlighted the songs of one Sahtu Got'ine, Chief Yahts'ule, who received 52 spiritual songs to pass along to the people.

MACKENZIE RIVER CAMPGROUND IN TULITA ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT




TO WATERPLANT
BEAR RIVER
BEAR RIVER CAMPGROUND
BEAR ROCK DRIVE
WINTER ROAD ACCESS SOUTH
SESAME STREET
CELESTE STREET
BLUEBERRY HILL DRIVE
BIG RIVER DRIVE
MACKENZIE DRIVE
ICE ROAD ACCESS
MACKENZIE RIVER
MACKENZIE RIVER CAMPGROUND
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TULÍT'A



Legend

1. Housing Office
2. Red Dog Construction Workshop
3. BJ's Market & Deli
4. Parks Canada Office
5. Basketball Court
6. Chief Albert Wright School
7. RCMP Station
8. McKay Range Office/Tourism Tulita Incorporated
9. Tulít'a Land Corporation
10. Preschool
11. Ball Diamond
12. Community Garden
13. Roman Catholic Church
14. Wright's Store
15. Fort Norman Fire Hall
16. Hamlet Garage
17. Two Rivers Hotel/Sahtu Renewable Resources Board/Tulít'a IPCA Steering Committee
18. Band Office/Family Support/GNWT-ECE/Radio Station/Tulita Renewable Resource Council
19. Anglican Church (Historical Site)
20. Northern Store
21. Fort Norman Métis Land Corporation
22. Tulít'a Harriet Gladue Health Center
23. Aurora College
24. Hamlet of Tulít'a Office/Cultural Centre
25. Swimming Pool
26. Arena/Community Hall/Fitness Centre
27. Pentecostal Mission Church
28. Tulít'a Gas Station
29. Power Corporation
30. Environment and Natural Resource Office
31. MYB Construction Workshop
32. Airport
33. Plane Lake/Dock/Rest Area

P Playground

B Boat Launch

Walking Trails

5 THINGS TO DO IN TULÍT'A



1 BEAR ROCK. This hike starts across the Bear river from Tulít'a and ends two or three hours later at the top of Bear Rock. Bear Rock is one of the most sacred sites of the Dene and offers spectacular views of the Mackenzie and Great Bear Rivers.

ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT

2 CAMPING. Check out the Campgrounds at Bear River and Mackenzie River, the amenities can be found in the campground section on page 76.

3 CULTURE. Visit Bear Rock and learn about the legends of Yamoria and the Giant Beavers. Also, check out the moosehide boat built by Tulít'a residents at the airport, which replicates the original mode of transportation used to navigate mountain rivers. Contact Tourism Tulita Incorporated at 867-588-3051 for a community or historical tour.

4 HISTORY. Visit the Anglican Church, built in 1880 by local Allan Hardisty. This log church, one of the oldest standing buildings in the NWT, is located on the former Hudson's Bay lot in the centre of the community.

5 OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. Hit the ski trails in the winter to explore the snowy landscapes. Come summer, hire a canoe or kayak and paddle pristine rivers or hike the great trail that wraps around the whole community and connects both campgrounds.

ACCOMMODATION/ DINING

- Two Rivers Hotel offers eight rooms equipped with fridge and microwave. There is also a fully equipped kitchen for use by guests.
- There are two campgrounds near Tulít'a, ideal for guided and self-guided travellers.
- BJ Services and Wright's Convenience store offer take-out services and groceries. In the summer, BJ Services offers a dine-in on the patio.

For more information, please refer to page 72.

SHOPPING

- Northern Store for groceries and general merchandise. Also houses the Post Office

WHERE TO BUY ART

Tulít'a Cultural Centre (in the Hamlet office)
867-588-4471

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- School K-12
- Health Centre
- Community Centre
- Seasonal indoor arena, seasonal indoor swimming pool, fitness centre, gathering area, community garden, campgrounds, ball diamond

BANKING

ATM at Northern Store

TRANSPORTATION

- Daily flights to and from Norman Wells and Yellowknife.
- Winter road from Highway 1 at Wrigley, connecting all Sahtu Communities.

TULÍT'A BUSINESS LISTINGS

BJ Services
867-588-3504

Fort Norman Metis Land Corp.
867-588-3201

North-Wright Airways
867-588-4555

Tourism Tulita
867-446-0205

Tulít'a Airport
867-588-3191

Tulita Land Corporation
867-588-3734

Tulita Dene Band
867-588-3341

Wright's Convenience Store
867-588-4927



BLUEBERRY HILL IN TULITA NICKY RICHARDS / NWTT

EVENTS

NORMAN WELLS

- January (mid): Curling Bonspiel @ Curling Club
- January (end) (last weekend): Volleyball Tournament @ MMS Gym
- February (mid): Sahtu Cup @ Ray Persson Memorial Arena
- February (mid)(2nd weekend): Volleyball Tournament @ MMS Gym
- February (mid): Curling Bonspiel @ Curling Club
- March (mid): Curling Bonspiel @ Curling Club
- April (mid)(2nd weekend): Spring Fling @ Various locations
- April (end) last week: Tourism Week BBQ @ Norman Wells Historical Society
- May: River Breakup @ Mackenzie River
- May (mid): Community Cleanup @ Various locations
- June (end): Berathon @ Royal Canadian Legion
- June 21 (end): Aboriginal Day @ Various locations
- June 23 (end): Sahtu Day @ Various locations
- July 1st (begin): Canada Day Celebration @ Various locations
- July (end) 3rd weekend: Territorial Parks Day – MacKinnon Territorial Park @ MacKinnon Territorial Park
- August (mid) (3rd weekend): Ridgefest@ Bush 14km outside Norman Wells
- August (end): Norman Wells Softball Association Slow Pitch Tournament @ Ball Diamond
- Sep (beg) Long Weekend: Black Bear Jamboree @ various locations
- November (mid): Christmas Bazaar @ Different location every year

TULÍT'A

- Dec 31st/Jan 1st: Midnight New Year's Fire Works & Drum Dance @ Arthur Mendo Arena
- Mid February: Youth Handgames Tournament
- Mid-March Spring Break
- April (Around Easter) : Spring Carnival

- May: River Breakup @ Mackenzie River
- June: Naats'ihch'oh National Park Reserve; Feeding of the Fire and BBQ
- June 6: Fire Day
- June 21: Aboriginal Day
- June 23: Sahtu Day
- July 1: Canada Day
- September Long Weekend: Adult & Youth Handgames Tournament
- November (mid): Christmas Bazaar @ Chief Albert Wright School
- Mid December: Adult Christmas Formal & a Kids Christmas Formal
- Mid December : Winter Road open from Norman Wells to South

FORT GOOD HOPE

- Dec 31st/Jan 1st: Midnight New Year's Fire Works & Drum Dance @ K'asho Got'ine Band Hall
- April (beginning to mid): Rubber Boots Spring Carnival @ K'asho Got'ine Band Hall and Recreation Field
- May: River Breakup @ Mackenzie River

PAT KANE/NWTT





TAWNA BROWN/NWTT

- May (end of month): Hide Culture Camp @ on the land
- June 21: Aboriginal Day Celebration @ Recreation Field
- June 23: Sahtu Day Celebration @ Recreation Field
- July 1: Canada Day Celebration @ Recreation Field
- August (mid): Ramparts Rendezvous Traditional Games @ Recreation Field

COLVILLE LAKE

- November – February: Community Harvest @ on the land
- June 23: Sahtu Day
- July 1: Canada Day
- June – September: Fishing Derbies

DÉLĮNĘ

- February: Volleyball Tournament @ School Gym
- February: Hockey Tournament @ Arena
- May (long weekend): Chike Carnival @ Various locations
- June: High School Graduation Ceremony @ School Gym
- June 21: Aboriginal Day
- June 23: Sahtu Day
- End of June: Great Bear Lake Break Up
- July 1: Canada Day Festivities @ Little Lake
- July 11-19: On The Land Trip
- August (around the 15th): Spiritual Gathering @ Prophet Ayha House
- September: Délįnę Got'ine Government Anniversary Celebration

PAT KANE/NWTT



LODGING

NORMAN WELLS

Yamouri Inn
Main: 867-587-2744
P.O. Box 268
Norman Wells, NT
X0E 0V0

Heritage Hotel
Main: 867-587-5000
27 Mackenzie Drive
P.O. Box 279
Norman Wells, NT
X0E 0V0

Sahtu Dene Inn
Main: 867-587-2511
Cell: You will be automatically directed to staff.
Email: info@SahtuDeneInn.ca
P.O. Box 508
Norman Wells, NT,
X0E 0V0

Canoe North Adventures Lodge B&B
Main: 867-587-4440
9 Beaver Lane
Box 148
Norman Wells, NT
X0E 0V0

FORT GOOD HOPE

Arctic Circle Enterprises
Main: 867-598-2018
Email: arcticcircleenterpriseltd@gmail.com
PO Box 4
Fort Good Hope, NT
X0E 0H0

Jackson's B&B
Main: 867-598-2067/2804
Cell: 867-444-8365
Email: jacksonsbnb@gmail.com
P.O. Box 08
Fort Good Hope, NT
X0E 0H0

Little Dipper B&B
Main: 867-598-2255
Cell: 867-444-8312
Email: wfmcneely@rocketmail.com
P.O. Box 100
Fort Good Hope, NT
X0E 0H0

River Bend Motel Inc.
PO Box 238
Fort Good Hope, NT
X0E 0H0
Main: 867-688-9884
Email: daniel.jackson38@hotmail.com

Tee Jay B&B
Main: 867-598-2619
P.O. Box 97
Fort Good Hope, NT
X0E 0H0

COLVILLE LAKE

Colville Lake B&B
Main: 867-709-2045
P.O. Box 22
Colville Lake, NT
X0E 1L0

Gene Oudzi B&B
Main: 867-709-2125
Cell: 444-2125
P.O. Box
Colville Lake, NT
X0E 1L0

DÉLĮNĘ

Bernice B&B
Main: 867-589-3528
P.O. Box 64
Déļinę, NT X0E 0G0

Déļinę B&B
Main: 867-589-4632
Déļinę, NT X0E 0G0

Grey Goose Lodge
Main: 867-589-5500
Email: bookings_h1497.destinationDeline.com@webrez.com
PO Box 175
Déļinę, NT X0E 0G0

MeckCon Services Ltd.
867-589-3119

TULÍT'A

Two Rivers Hotel
Main: 867-588-3320
Cell: 867-374-0123
Email: tworiversdgl@gmail.com
1 Main St, Tulít'a, NT
X0E 0K0

CANOE NORTH ADVENTURES LODGE/NWTT
HANS PFAFF/NWTT

LODGING AMENITIES

	TULÍT'A	DÉLĮNĘ		FORT GOOD HOPE			
	Two Rivers Hotels	Grey Goose Lodge	Déljnę B&B	Jackson's B&B	Little Dippper B&B	Tee Jay's B&B	River Bend Motel Inc.
Hotel/ Motel	X	X					X
B&B			X	X	X	X	
Cabins/ Lodges		X					
Camp							
Units	8	19	2	4	4	4	7
Open All Year	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TV in Room	X	X					X
Internet	X	X					X
Private Bath	X	X					X
Shared Bath			X	X	X	X	
Handicap Access							X
Restaurant		X					
Vehicle Rental	X			X	X	X	
Shuttle Services			X		X	X	
Boat Rentals							
Laundry Facilities			X	X	X	X	
Other	Extra trailer for rent as well	Cabins for rent as well		TV in Living Room	TV in Living Room	TV in Living Room	In suite kitchen

	COLVILLE LAKE		NORMAN WELLS			
Arctic Circle Enterprises	Colville Lake B&B	Gene Oudzi's B&B	Yamouri Inn	Heritage Hotel	Sahtu Dene Inn	Canoe North Adventures Lodge B&B
			X	X	X	
	X	X				X
						X
X						
6	7	4	16	27	22	5
X	X	X	X	X	X	
		X	X	X	X	X
			X	X	X	
			X	X	X	
X	X	X			X	X
			X	X		
X	X	X				
	X	X			X	
X	X	X			X	X
TV in common space, pool table			Bar attached to hotel		Trailers for rent as well	Meals can be prepared by staff, storage facilities

CAMPGROUNDS

	NORMAN WELLS			TULÍT'A	
	Bandy Lake Campground	Hodgson's Lake (Jackfish Lake)	Mackinnon Territorial Park	Mackenzie River Campground	Bear River Campground
Dates	Open: May 1 Close: Oct. 1	Open: May 1 Close: Oct. 1	Open: May 15 Close : Sept. 10	Open: June 1 Close: Sept. 15	Open: June 1 Close: Sept. 15
Power					
Washroom Facilities	X	X	X	X	X
Laundry Facilities					
Fixed Roof Accommodations					
Firewood Provided		X	X	X	X
Potable Water		X	X		
# of Campsites		11	7	8	7
Teepees	0	0	3	0	0
Arbour		X	X		
Cabins			1		
Gazebos	X		1		2
Fire pits	2	X	X	X	X
Picnic Tables	2	X	X	X	X
Open Spaces			X	X	X
Playgrounds		X	X		
Other	Walking trail to Bandy Lake	Can swim in the lake, There is a dock, a platform down the path to the lake	Community Garden in the park, Frisbee Golf, Sand Volleyball	Contact Hamlet of Tulita 867-588-4471	Boat Dock



MACKENZIE RIVER CAMPGROUND TULITA ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT



BEAR RIVER CAMPGROUND TULITA ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT



MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS TERRITORIAL PARK CAMPGROUND ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT



BEAR RIVER CAMPGROUND TULITA ANGELA GZOWSKI/NWTT



MCKINNON TERRITORIAL PARK AT NORMAN WELLS ALASDAIR VEITCH/GNWT ITI

For more information on the Sahtu communities featured in this guide, please visit:

NORMAN WELLS: normanwells.com
FORT GOOD HOPE: maca.gov.nt.ca/en/content/fort-good-hope
COLVILLE LAKE: maca.gov.nt.ca/fr/content/colville-lake
DÉLĮNĘ: deline.ca/en/home
TULÍT'A: discovertulita.ca