



Roseau River Anishinabe Nation





MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Roseau River Anishinabe Nation is a nation of indigenous people with a distinct land base, population, culture, language and practises. To begin to understand Roseau River, one must understand how deeply the people feel about being sovereign, the right as a nation of indigenous people to be independent and free.

As Chief of Roseau River, it is my privilege to welcome you to learn about our community. This profile will give you statistics and numbers, but to understand the dreams, visions and hopes of the people of Roseau River one must know a little of the history of the Anishinabe people.

The elders proudly taught the youth that prior to 1945, there had never been a murder in our community, our doors were never locked, and people did not steal from each other. This was a community that shared, and cared about each other. We lived under our own laws and enforced those laws ourselves. Our people respected and valued our own way of doing things.

A period of drastic change took place where alcohol and the imposition of other people's laws and culture affected our community to the point where despair and violence overtook our people. Several generations lived under those oppressive times. However, today we see some real hope and real opportunity for this community.

We have returned to our culture, values and traditions. Fiercely independent, Roseau River is one of the most politically astute indigenous communities in Canada. Like many American Indian reservations, we see economic development flowing from assertion of our rights as an indigenous people. Although we currently have 77 per cent unemployment, we see 100 per cent employment possible within the next six to ten years. Our economic plan encompasses the Winnipeg urban reserve and other acquired Treaty Land Entitlement lands which will provide opportunities in the gaming and trade sectors as well as the offerings of certain tax exemptions.

We welcome you to learn more of Roseau River and we look forward to working with people from similar-minded communities.

Mii-gwetch,
Chief Terrance Nelson
Mush-ko-dah-be-shik-eesee
Lynx clan





Land and Resources

Geography

The headquarters of the Roseau River Anishinabe Nation is at the junction of the Red and Roseau Rivers, 96 kilometers south of the City of Winnipeg. It is 4.6 kilometers east of PTH 75, on Provincial Road 201, just 18 kilometers north of the United States border.

The Reserve lies adjacent to the Rural Municipality of Franklin in the Eastman Region of Manitoba.

The two communities of Roseau River Anishinabe Nation make up a total of 7,576 acres, or 21.58 km². The largest piece of land at Roseau River is 5,276 acres adjacent to the Red River. The Roseau River Rapids portion is 2,300 acres. The Roseau Rapids Reserve is separated into two areas, the North Rapids and South Rapids. The southern end of Roseau Rapids is 24 km east of the main reserve, and the northern section is 28 km east of Roseau River on Provincial Highway 201, on a high ridge of the Red River Valley.

Latitude 49° 9' 32"
 Longitude 97° 16' 19"

Climate

Rain – 420 mm / year
 Snow – 125 cm / year

On average, 77 days each year have rain, and 40 days each year have snow.

Average daily high in July: 26° C
 Average daily high in Jan: -12° C

Roseau River Reserve gets about 115 frost-free days each year between May and September.

Agriculture

The Roseau River First Nation leases 41 quarter sections (6,560 acres) of cultivated land to area farmers. Producers harvest a variety of cereal, oilseed and specialty crops on these fields. The First Nation has fenced in 920 acres which are rented to farmers for pasture.

In addition, the First Nation has 3,775 acres of Treaty Land Entitlement lands which are in the process of being converted from Trust lands to Reserve status. This includes 2,800 acres of cultivated land and 770 acres of pasture. These lands are also leased to area farmers. The TLE arises from shortfall at the time of Treaty in 1871. The established shortfall, which the First Nation and the Crown of Right of Canada are legally obligated to fulfil is 5,861 acres.

Where our members live

Most of the citizens of the Roseau River Anishinabe Nation live on the main reserve on the Red River east of Letellier, Manitoba. There are 170 homes on the main reserve. This is where the government and administration offices are located, as well as the school, Wellness Center, Gaming Center and most community businesses. The Roseau Rapids reserve has 32 homes.

Population

Total on- and off-reserve membership 2016
 On reserve 1057
 Off reserve 959
 Total on-reserve non-membership 65
 Total on-reserve membership and non-membership 1122

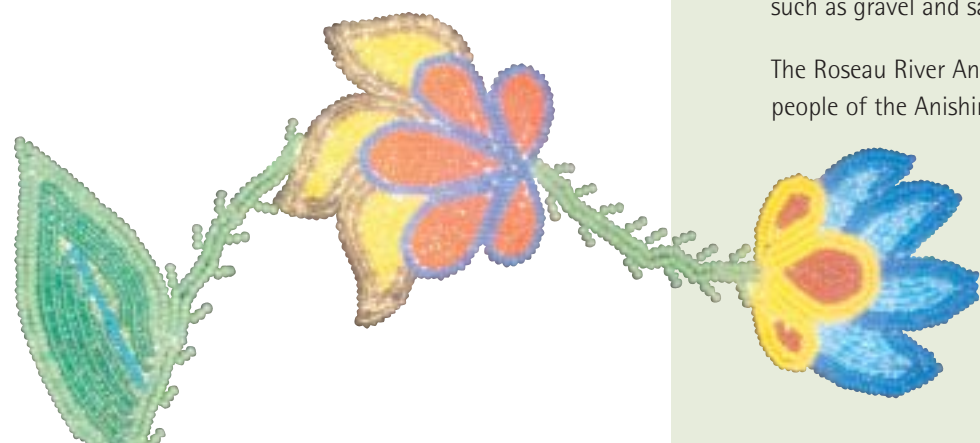
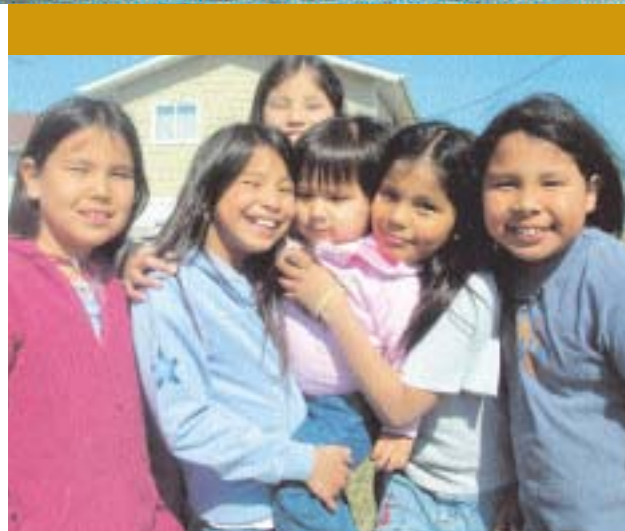
Most of the off-reserve members live in Winnipeg or in other cities across Canada. Many live near the reserve in neighbouring towns and municipalities. Some live in remote areas in northern Manitoba while others reside in the United States. A few can be found in Europe.

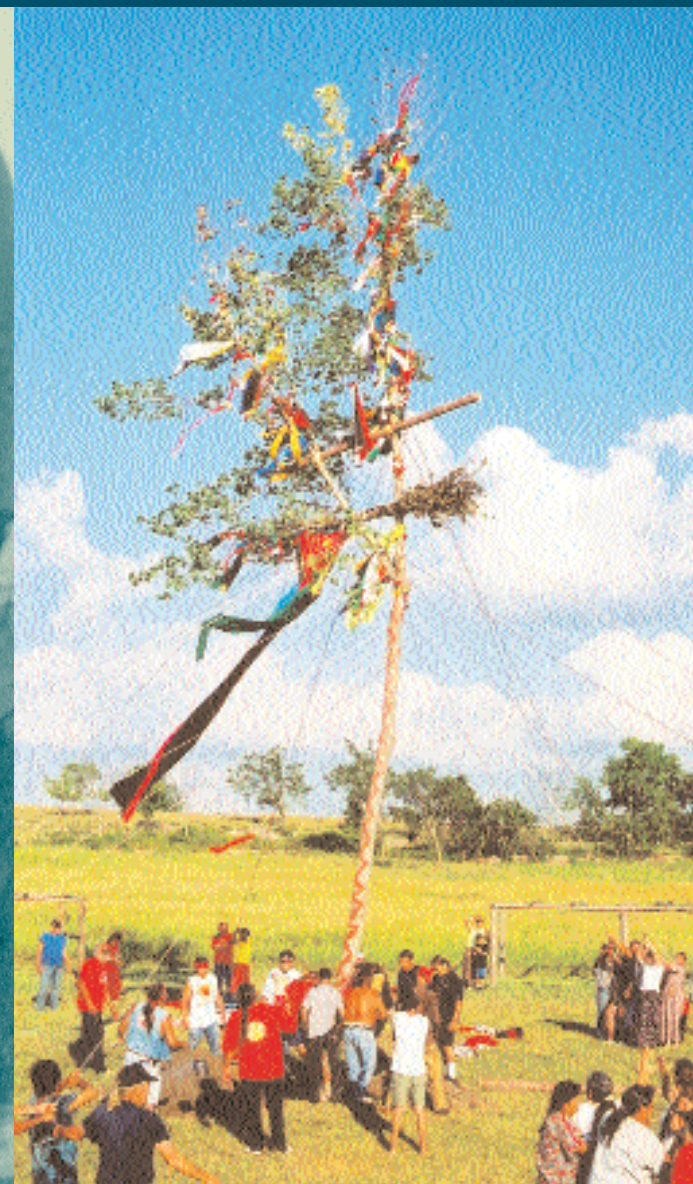
Introduction

Roseau River is an Anishinabe Nation community located in Anishinabe territory, also known as Treaty 1 territory. This area is also now known as southern Manitoba, just north of the United States-Canada border.

Roseau River 2A, the main reserve, is at the junction of the Red and Roseau Rivers, with another portion, Roseau River 2A (Roseau Rapids), located on the escarpment 20 miles east of the main reserve. The main reserve includes excellent farmland, surrounded by dense foliage and trees, while Roseau Rapids has pasturelands and some natural resources such as gravel and sand. Each has a river running through it.

The Roseau River Anishinabe Nation is an Ojibway-speaking people of the Anishinabe nation.





Roseau Trust

Roseau River Anishinabe Nation Trust is the entity that manages the Treaty Land Entitlement settlement funds, land acquisitions, due diligence and maintenance of Trust properties. The Trust has an obligation to buy 5,861 acres of land within 15 years of the settlement in 1996. To date, they have purchased 3,774.8 acres and have advanced to INAC 2,584.6 acres for conversion to reserve status. The trust expects to fulfil the land purchase obligation within the allotted time frame. Future land purchases, already in negotiation, will be strategic for economic development and include property in the city of Winnipeg for an Urban Reserve.

The Trust settlement has had many economic benefits. Capital has grown and the land base has increased. Job opportunities and the possibility for joint ventures are also increasing. The Trust has a staff of two, and a local board that meets bi-weekly. Its mandate is to preserve the capital and to purchase the shortfall. Most of the benefits of the Trust's activities will be in the future. In the traditional way, the Trust is structured to look seven generations ahead. It will be another two or three generations before the results of its work will begin to be seen.

History and Heritage

The people of Roseau have a rich history in the Red River and Pembina Valleys. The current Canada-U.S. boundary, that now bisects Anishinabe traditional territory, wasn't a factor in earlier times. Trade, socialization, hunting and war were among the many reasons to move from place to place. Elders remember trade between Cree, Ojibway and Dakota Sioux, in territories from South Dakota, Montana and Nebraska to the Great Lakes region of Northern Ontario. Leonard Nelson says, "How we determined how far west our land went: We stood on the bank on the Red River and as far as we could see was Ojibway country."

The Anishinabe had a structure of social order known as the clan system. The system assigned responsibilities to various clans and societies. Collectively, the Ojibway of Manitoba,

Western Ontario, North Dakota and Northern Minnesota were known as the Zoong-gi-dah Anishinabe, the "Strong Heart People." They were given this name by the Midewiwin (the original Ojibway Spiritual Society) of Wisconsin in recognition of their bravery.

Before the treaty, this band wasn't known as Roseau River but rather as the Pembina Band. (The word "pembina" may come from the Cree *nepeminan*, meaning high bush-cranberry.) Some members in earlier times lived along the Pembina River in North Dakota and along Joe Creek. When white settlers came and began to clear land, bands had to go further and further away from their home territories to hunt. Bands scattered and when Treaty 1 was signed, a new name and grouping was given to the people around Roseau River.

The Treaty

The Anishinabe at Roseau River signed Treaty #1 with the Crown of Great Britain in Right of Canada on August 3, 1871. Under the Homestead Act of 1872, each settler received 640 acres of land, but the treaty set aside only 160 acres for each family of five and this was only a small portion of the band's traditional territory. But as was the case with many other treaties of the era, the government failed to respect even this small allotment, and regular encroachments occurred. Since the signing of Treaty #1, the Roseau River Anishinabe Nation has been attempting to negotiate with the government to settle outstanding claims for the shortfall of 5,861 acres at Treaty.

To date, the Roseau River community has received approximately \$14 million in settlement for their Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) claims.





Communication and Transportation

Communications

Modern, reliable communication services are available in both the Roseau River and Rapids communities. Members are served by the Manitoba Telephone System as well as an Internet Broad Band Tower for computer users of the community and beyond. The Ginew Wellness Center, Ginew School, Training Center, Administration Office and Government Office as well as a number of residences are using state-of-the-art computer systems.

The reserves have access to local television and radio stations such as CKND, CKY, MTN, and CBC television and the Fox channel. Some tribal members have satellite television.

The reserve produces its own newspaper quarterly and receives weekly community newspapers from Morris, Emerson and Altona. First Nations newspapers including Grassroots, the Drum and the Thunder Voice News also come into the community each month.

Roseau River receives both Canadian and American radio stations within a 200-kilometre area. A low-powered radio station, CKOPS (100.5 fm), has been developed for the Roseau River Anishinabe Nation community. It is operated out of the Bird Clan office.

Roads

Together, the reserves have approximately 24 kilometres of all-weather roads and ditches which are maintained year-round.

Railway Lines

Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railway services are accessible at Letellier and Dominion City.

Commercial Bus and Taxi Services

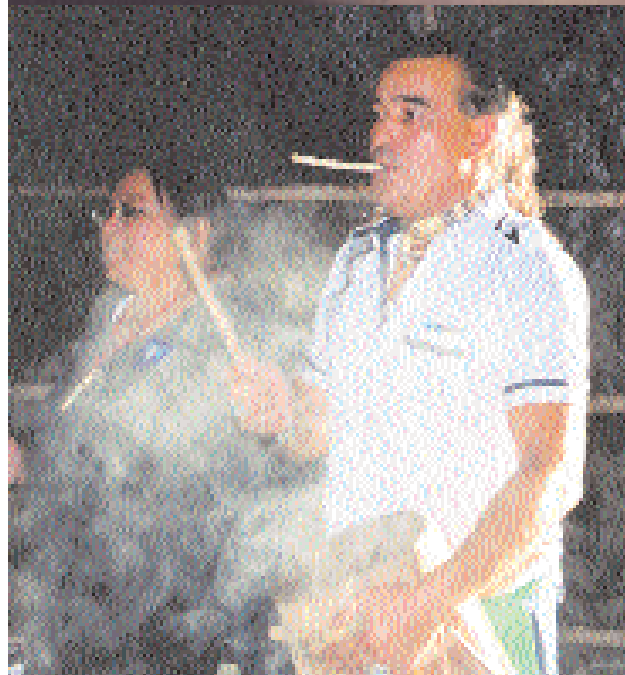
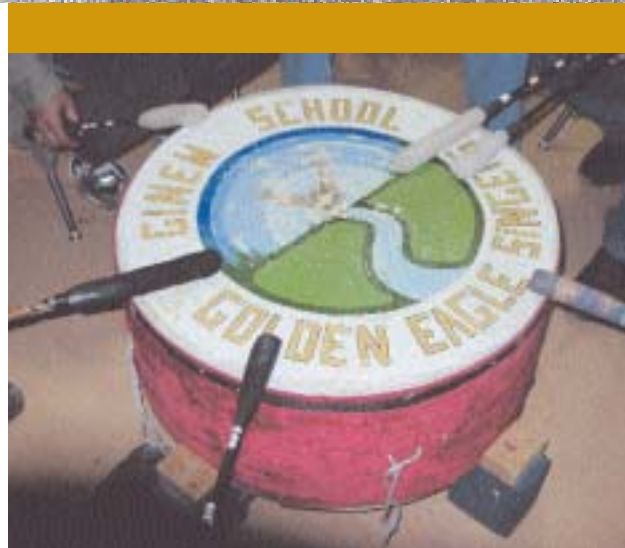
The reserves have access to the Grey Goose and Greyhound bus services that go to the major centers, such as Winnipeg, Brandon and Portage la Prairie. Private individuals taxi people to local areas, and the Wellness Center has medical vans to take community members to the local Wellness Center, medical appointments and hospitals.



Cultural Traditions

The Anishinabe people are rich in culture and heritage. Traditional songs, games, stories and dances have been passed on from generation to generation. Although much was lost due to children being sent away from their family and community to residential school, many people still practise the traditional ways and pass them on to their children and grandchildren. Local plants are collected for traditional healing. Traditional healing methods are used in conjunction with a modern wellness center. Traditional ceremonies are held to celebrate birth, coming-of-age, weddings and funerals. The local school provides children with a provincially accredited education and teaching in the Ojibway language.

Anishinabe people take pride in their heritage of self-sufficiency, conservation of wildlife, and a strong work ethic. The Anishinabe way of life has always included looking after the needs of everyone in the community. The wisdom of elders is passed down to younger generations. Values like these are sustained through the efforts of various committees in much the same way as traditional Anishinabe societies operated in years gone by. By teaching the children the beliefs that First Nations peoples have always held, tribal members strive to strengthen the Anishinabe for generations to come.



Economy and Business

Business Opportunities

Economic development is the priority and focus of the Roseau River Anishinabe Nation Chief and Council. Their goal is to provide employment and revenue opportunities for the people of the community.

The strategic purchase of Treaty Land Entitlement properties is key to future economic development. Lands will be purchased along major highways in the province as well as in the city of Winnipeg. These lands will be developed to the greatest potential possible, emphasizing benefits such as taxation, gas and tobacco rebates and where appropriate, gaming activities. Development will include business specific to First Nations, as well as joint ventures, partnerships and trade with other communities and nations.



This structured and non-political development offers numerous benefits for potential investors, businesses, and employers from both inside and outside the community. These resources include land and tax advantages, industrial zoned lands, sound transportation routes, adequate power supply, a growing labour force and access to training and financial assistance.

Roseau is in dialogue with brokers to develop international trade relations. There is excellent potential for trade with the American Indians, the Treaty 3 area (Ontario), other treaty nations in Saskatchewan, and with the surrounding communities in Southern Manitoba.

The Roseau River Anishinabe Nation receives annual funding for economic development from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). At only five percent of the social services budget, these economic development dollars are inadequate for the First Nation's needs and the tribe works continually to find ways and means for economic development. Regional development corporations and local ventures are also working closely with the community in business development.

The aboriginal work force in Manitoba is growing faster than the general population. There are 213 males and 207 females on the First Nation between the ages of 16 and 65 eligible to work. Of these, 59 males and 52 females are employed, leaving 157 males and 152 females unemployed. These figures do not include non-tribal members who work on the Reserve.

Roseau River Businesses

TRIBAL OWNED

Free Spirit Sewing Factory
Roseau River Leisure and Recreation Center.

SOUTH RAPIDS DEVELOPMENT

- Radio Station
- Regional Access Negotiations (RAN)
- Community Economic Development (CEDO)
- Language development
- Residential Internet
- Road maintenance contract
- Bird clan office
- Jadnet computer services

PRIVATELY OWNED

Frank and Gail Lakatos – Mama Bear Restaurant
Ken Egachie - Vehicle Repair
Fred Henry Enterprises
Catering Service – Wesley and Mervin Esau
Mary Ann Patrick – School Bus Service
Mary Ann Patrick – Patrick Stables
Rod Patrick – Septic Services
Elders Group – Bingo
Lawrence Henry – Golden Eagle Corporation
Grace Hage – Indian Time Clothiers and Crafts
Thomas Thomas – Thomas Thomas Productions and Art Design
Lorenzo Nelson – Authentic Native Outfit Maker
Kathy Nelson – Tay-bit-tah-go-seek Gas Bar
Archie Accobee – Accobee Signs Inc.
Bustle Maker – Michael Littlejohn
Keith Henry – Garbage Disposal
LADA Welding – Andrew Alexander

Government

The Chief and Council

The Chief and Council form the political arm for Roseau River Anishinabe Nation. One Chief and four Councillors are elected every two years. Chief and Council deal with governance and policy issues in the community. They negotiate with the federal government and work to increase federal funding and bring new money and programs into the community. Chief and Council are working towards the privatization of non-INAC funded programs.

The following programs are the responsibility of Chief and Council:

- Economic and Community Development
- Land Lease
- Tobacco Tax Rebate
- VLTs

The Custom Council and Elders

Roseau River is in the process of community capacity development, which will result in more community involvement in every aspect of the First Nation. A Custom Council is comprised of representation that is selected by families choosing to participate.

For example, Roseau River is changing to a clan system of governance and the Custom Council system will be incorporated into the government system. Traditionally, the direction for administering community business and local politics comes from the Elders Council. Decisions are based on the wisdom as spoken by the elders.



Government Affiliations

The Roseau River First Nation is part of a number of political organizations which take directions from their First Nation members. It is usually the Chief that sits in committee to set policies and directions for these organizations. These organizations include:

The Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council (DOTC) – made up of four Dakota and four Ojibway First Nations, and includes programs and services in health, education, housing, and social development.

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) – a province-wide political organization involved with child welfare, economic issues, self-determination, treaties, health and social development.

Southern Chiefs Organization (SCO) – consists of all chiefs of the 34 Southern First Nations and assists First Nations in government, treaty and aboriginal rights issues.

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) – the national representative organization of the 630 First Nation communities in Canada.

Roseau River First Nation lies within the Emerson Provincial Electoral Division and in the Provencher Federal Riding.





Administration

Departments located in the Roseau River Administration building include:

- Social Services
- Fire Department
- Finance
- Tribal Managers Office
- Band Membership
- Employment
- Housing and Maintenance
- Post office
- Flood Report Office
- Secretary office
- Custom Council

The Roseau River administration presently administers all INAC-funded programs.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

Treaty #1 is a legal, political and economic agreement between Canada and the Anishinabe people. INAC is an administrative arm and agent of the Crown and it is responsible to fulfill the obligations of the federal government to First Nations peoples arising from treaties, the Constitution Act, 1982 and other legislation.

First Nations people in Canada enjoy all the rights and benefits available to other Canadians, including Family Allowance, Old Age Security and Unemployment Insurance. INAC provides for the delivery of basic services such as education, social assistance, housing and community infrastructure to First Nation communities.



Arts and Culture

Drum Groups

The beat of the drum is a sound akin to the beating of a heart or the rhythm of life itself. There are several drum groups on the reserve, including contemporary, traditional and even a children's drum group. The sound of the drum can be heard at most community gatherings at Roseau River.

Visual Artists

Roseau has a rich tradition of visual art. Visual artists are often contracted to paint signs and murals for community buildings. Some make their living selling their work and Roseau River artists have displayed their art in galleries all over the world. The reserve has many gifted crafters as well. There are individuals who create with wood and make traditional drums. There are numerous tribal members with a talent for beadwork and their creations can be seen far and wide at pow wows and other First Nation events.

Dancers

Roseau River hosts a pow wow every year and has no shortage of local dancers to join competitors from across Canada and the United States. Every year the tribe selects a brave and three princesses that represent Roseau throughout the year at pow wows all over North America. Dancers include men's traditional, grass, fancy, chicken, and women's traditional, jingle and fancy. There are youth dancers in each of these categories as well.

Professional musicians and singers

Most community events are serenaded by local musicians and singers. Besides the drum groups, Roseau River has produced individuals who make their living with their musical talent.

Recreation and Celebrations

Although recreation has changed somewhat over the years, many of the traditional games are still a part of community life at Roseau. Along with bingo and Video Lottery Terminals and poker tournaments, tribal members participate in moccasin and stick games.

RED ROAD MARTIAL ARTS SOCIETY

– An instructor comes to the reserve twice a week to teach martial arts to the youth. Tribal members with black belts assist in teaching yellow and blue belt students.

HOCKEY TEAMS – Roseau River has yet to produce a National Hockey League player, but the potential is great. Local athletes are supported by many fans as they participate on teams for surrounding communities. Many of the youth play in the local minor hockey league while the “old guys” play for the local Roseau River Renegades as well as with teams in neighbouring communities.



TOURISM – Roseau Rapids is located on the Trans Canada Trail. A camp site for users of the trail is being set up near the traditional ceremonial grounds at Roseau Rapids South. The campsite includes seven tipis as well as campsites and washrooms, giving trail users a number of options for a stop along the way. The trail from Winnipeg to Emerson is called the Crow Wing Trail. In the mid-1800s it was an ox-cart trail used between St. Paul, Minnesota and Fort Garry (now Winnipeg). The current trail is a combination of existing roads, little-used road allowances and private property.

POW WOW – The annual summer pow wow attracts dancers and singing groups from all over North America who participate in all categories with local talent. Traditionally held the last weekend in June, the three-day event draws hundreds of participants with thousands of dollars in prize money. Local dancers compete with the best in all dance categories. An Ojibway-style moccasin game tournament is held at the pow wow grounds during this time as well.

BINGO NIGHTS – Bingo is held at the local bingo hall four nights each week. Prize money draws people from nearby communities and as far away as Winnipeg.

ST. MALO PROVINCIAL PARK – The park and man-made lake of St. Malo is only 40 km from the First Nation. The park is one of the three busiest provincial parks in the province and has walking and bike trails, public beaches, picnic and camping grounds. Tribal members spend many happy summer days on the beach as families gather together to share picnic lunches and fun in the sun.



ARENA/HOCKEY RINK – Alternative business /industrial uses are currently being sought for the building formerly used as an arena/hockey rink.

MAKOONS YOUTH CULTURAL CENTER

– Youth programs run out of the Makoons Center include regular pow wow dance and drum group practise, girls’ connection night and cross-cultural events. Counselling services are available at the center as well.

COMMUNITY HALL – The community hall is used for community gatherings, meetings and wakes. It has a seating capacity of 300 people.

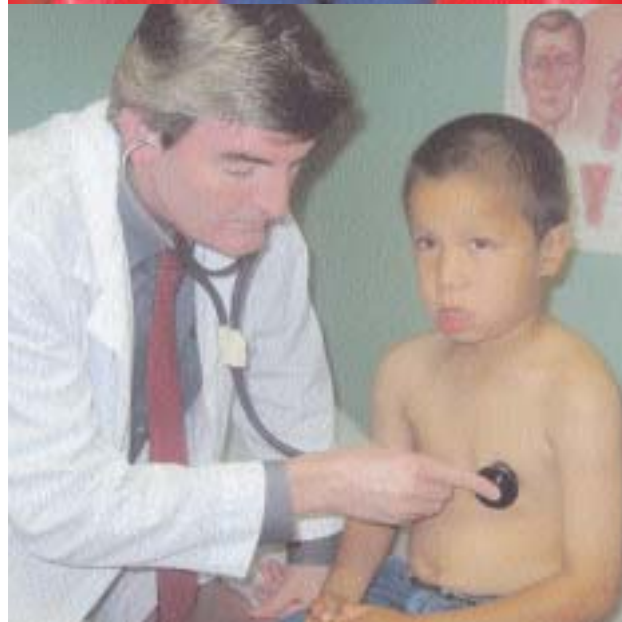
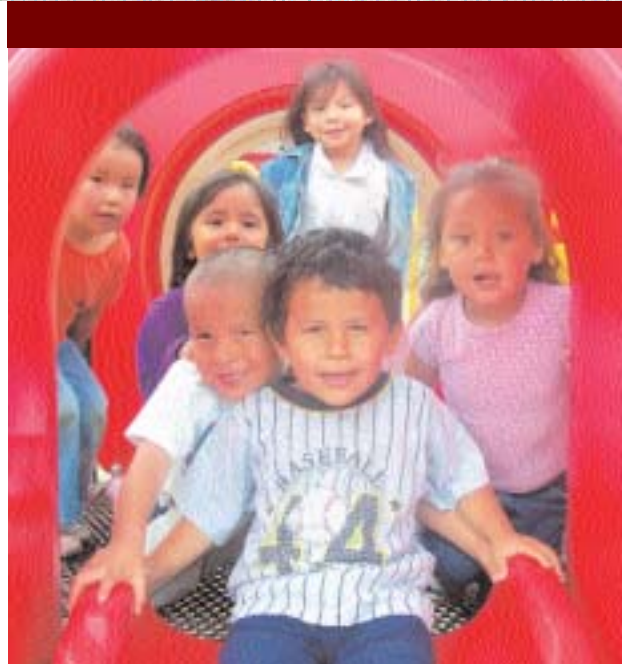
NECHI LEISURE AND GAMING CENTER

– This new, modern million-dollar facility includes a 250-seat bingo hall, a 60 seat Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) lounge, Texas Hold’em poker tables, restaurant and smoke shop. Smoking is allowed in the well-ventilated facility. The Center operates under existing gaming agreements with the province and draws players from a large area, including Winnipeg and the United States.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS – There is a Residential School Survivors Memorial near the community hall. Three hundred and twenty-seven names of local residential school survivors are listed there. Roseau River children were taken to residential schools in Portage la Prairie, Brandon and Dauphin from the 1920s to the early 1970s. The results of children being separated from their families, traditions and language were devastating; however, healing is ongoing in the community. A healing center has been established on the Reserve and many are seeking compensation for the injustices they suffered.

WAR MEMORIALS – Roseau River honours their war veterans every year. They hold ceremonies on Remembrance Day as well as on Aboriginal Veteran’s Day. There is a Roseau River War Memorial near the community hall.





Services

Health and Family

The community provides an excellent variety of health and family services, many of them based in the Ginew Wellness Center. The nearest hospitals are in Morris, Altona, and Boundary Trails.

GINEW WELLNESS CENTER – The Ginew Wellness Center supplies INAC-funded medical services for the First Nation.

Medical Services

- Doctor's Clinic
- Nurse's Clinic
- Foot Clinic
- Lab Work
- Dietician
- Traditional healing
- Medical transportation
- Alcohol and drug addiction program
- Dental care
- Home care services
- Family therapy
- Wellness Counsellor
- Health and exercise room and Fitness Worker
- Day Care
- Head start Program (Ombigiaawsiwin)
- Healing Journeys at Ginew Center for Healing

THE DAKOTA OJIBWAY CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES (DOCFS)

– A local DOCFS committee is made up of four community members and one DOPS (Dakota Ojibway Police Service) member. The local child protection committee is made up of representatives from the local Wellness Center, school, DOPS, mental health services and an elder. Most of the ten staff members are residents of Roseau River.

Education

GINEW SCHOOL – Programs in the Ginew School include a nursery program and Kindergarten to Grade 7. Cultural programming and Ojibway language classes form part of the curriculum. Students attending Grade 8 – Senior 4 are bussed into the neighbouring school divisions.

OMBIGIAAWSIWIN HEAD START CENTER

– This facility, attached to the Ginew Wellness Center, includes the Head Start Program and Day Care Services. Tribal members have been trained to run these programs.

SCHOOL BUS SERVICE – The school bus operates within the Roseau River Reserve and provides service to and from Dominion City. The bus service also includes transportation for the students living at Roseau River Rapids.

ROSEAU RIVER ADULT TRAINING AND EMPLOYABILITY CENTER

– Staff at the Training and Employability Center assist adults as well as summer students in work placement and training in a variety of fields. Clients that qualify are sponsored to upgrading programs, post secondary education and training programs as diverse as heavy equipment training and broadcasting.

Corrections and Policing

DAKOTA OJIBWAY POLICE SERVICE (DOPS)

– The community has a detachment located on the reserve. The police patrol the community and uphold province statutes and the criminal code with the assistance of the Red River Valley RCMP detachment. There are four aboriginal constables in Roseau River First Nation. This program is administered by the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council.

ROSEAU RIVER PROBATION SERVICES

– This program, funded by the Province of Manitoba, has one community member working full time. The function is to monitor the community members who are on probation or parole from the penal institutes. Under the Corrections Probation Agreement, Roseau River also has one part-time staff for the fine option program.

Emergency Services

FIRE DEPARTMENT – The First Nation relies on the communities of Dominion City and Letellier to provide fire protection services. As a member of the Manitoba Association of Native Firefighters, the First Nation receives training and assistance in writing and implementing an emergency plan.

Public Works

ROADS – Roseau River signed a six-year contract in 2005 with the South Rapids Development Corporation for road maintenance.

SEWER AND WATER – One hundred and thirty-seven houses on the main reserve are connected to the sewer and water project. It is expected that all the houses, with the exception of five on the south side of the highway, will be connected in 2006. The band owns a water truck and hires a band member to deliver water to both the main reserve and Roseau Rapids to homes not connected to the water and sewer system. Water is purchased from the Pembina Valley Water Co-op and comes to the reserve pumping station from Letellier. Band members are trained to look after the water pumping station and to read the water quality reports. Septic services are contracted out on an annual basis.

GARBAGE SERVICE – Garbage is picked up weekly for all the homes both in Roseau River and Roseau River Rapids. A band member has a three-year sanitation contract.



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